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American West

The land and its people

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March/April 1986 $3

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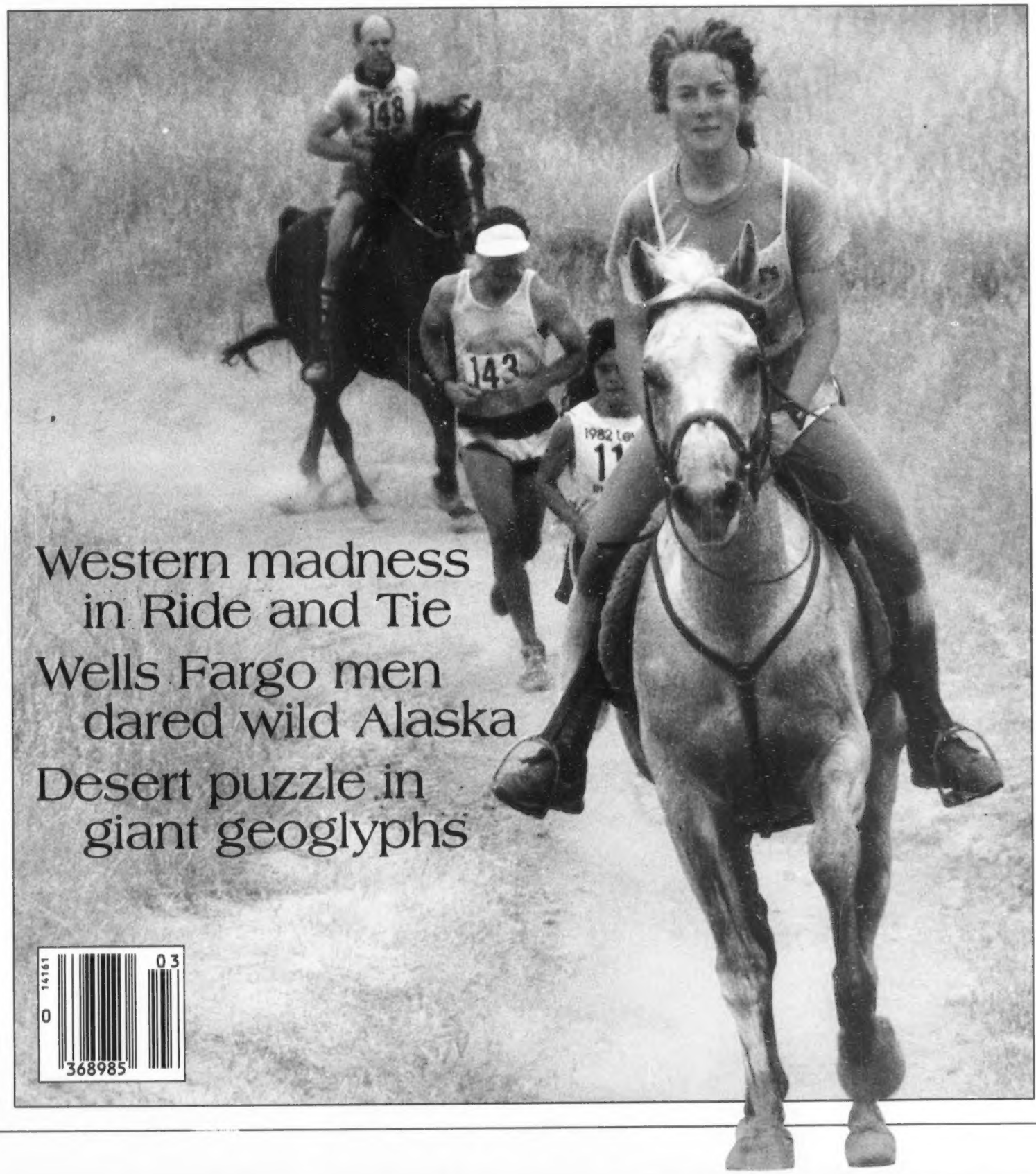

Western madness in Ride and Tie

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Desert puzzle in giant geoglyphs

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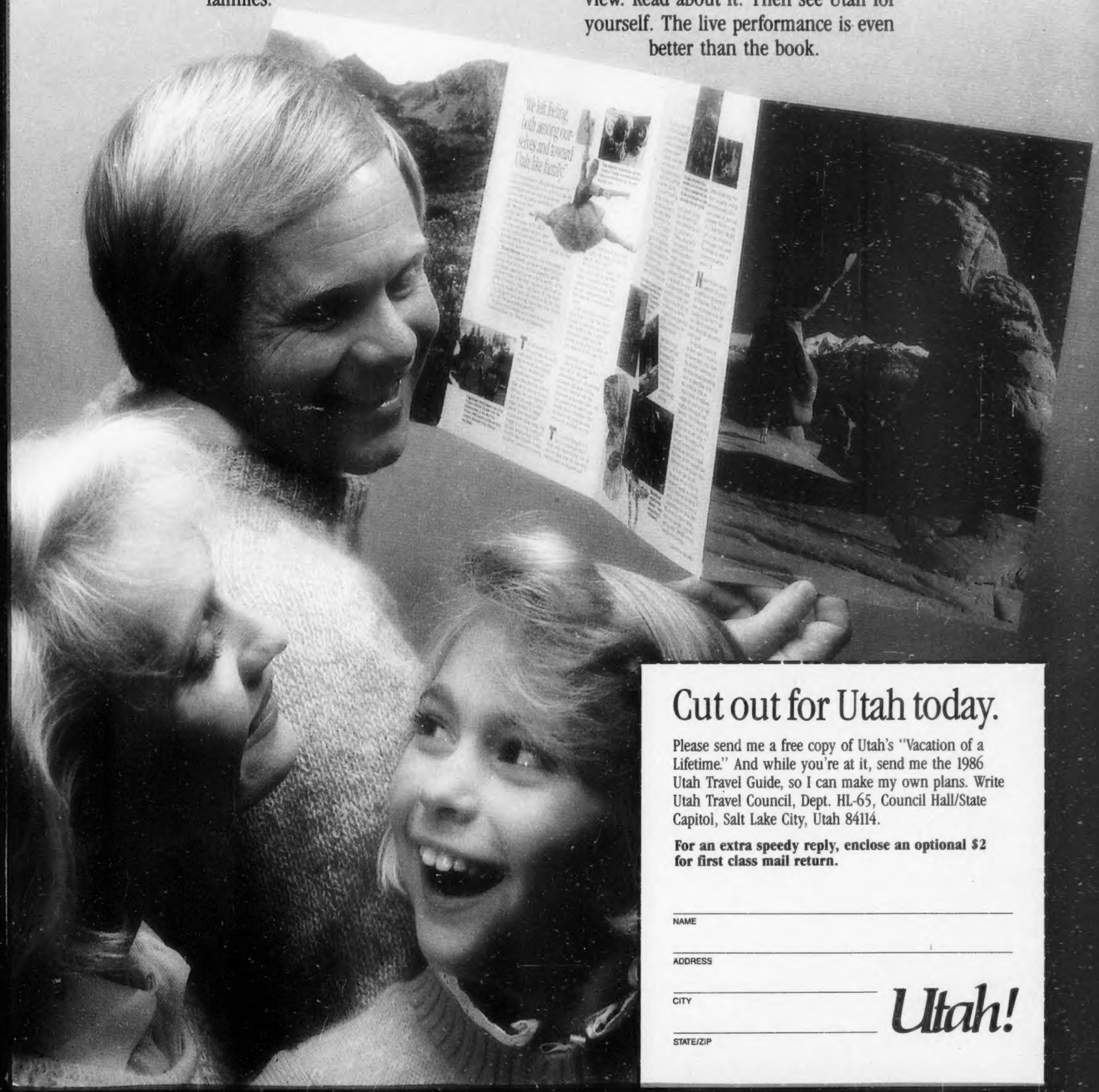

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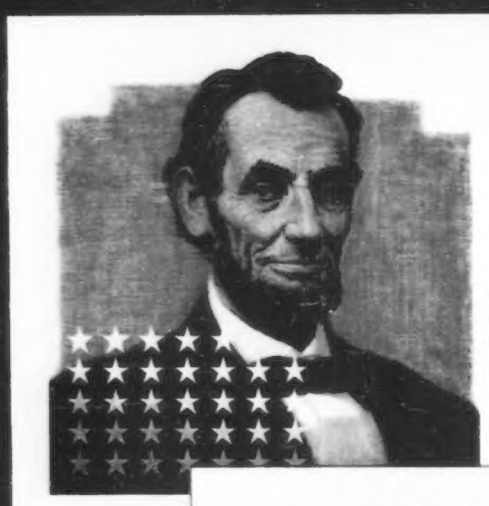
Utah!

Announcing The Official Collection of

The Presidents of the United States

Authorized by The White House Historical Association
Featuring First Editions of America's most complete set of Presidents stamps



Abraham Lincoln • Sixteenth President • 1861-1865

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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Ronald Reagan • Fortieth President • 1981-

George Washington • First President

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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

The cachets honor every U.S. President and are new portraits by American artist David K. Stone.

The First Day of Issue postmark records the date and place of the First Day of Issue ceremonies and certifies the stamp's limited edition status.

The firm and resolute signature of each President is reproduced on each Cover.

Each official U.S. commemorative stamp pays tribute to the American Presidents.

Stirring words of each President will appear on the reverse of the Covers.

Covers shown smaller than actual size of 6½ by 3⅝ inches. (165 mm by 92 mm). Stamps and postmarks shown are artists' concepts.

Subscription Deadline:
May 22, 1986

"Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."
John F. Kennedy

"Speak softly and carry a big stick."
Theodore Roosevelt

From the time of George Washington, the inspiring words of America's Presidents — which echo across the years — have stirred the hearts and called forth the best of the American spirit.

Thus, it is fitting that The White House Historical Association — dedicated to preserving the history of the Presidency for all Americans — has officially authorized Fleetwood to issue a landmark First Day Cover collection of the most complete set of U.S. postage stamps *ever* to honor America's Presidents.

Rich in design, comprehensive in scope, the Official First Day Cover collection of *The Presidents of the United States* will include forty First Day Covers — one for every President from George Washington to Ronald Reagan . . . and one for the White House itself.

The collection will feature thirty-six new stamps which the United States will issue on May 22, 1986: thirty-five stamps individually portraying all except the living Presidents, plus one stamp for the White House. The First Day Covers for President Reagan and America's living former Presidents will bear stamps selected from the new set of stamps, since no American stamp may by law portray a living person.

America's first Presidents stamps in nearly fifty years

Significantly, these are the *first* United States stamps to honor all our Presidents in nearly fifty years. And, unlike the 1938 series of which *hundreds* of millions were issued, only 5-million sets of the 1986 issues will be printed. But, only a *fraction will be issued on First Day Covers*, their First Editions. Thus, the new Presidents stamps are destined to command unprecedented interest for years to come. Both among collectors and among millions of Americans who deeply admire *The Presidents of the United States* and the proud heritage they represent.

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New Presidential portraits

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. . . John F. Kennedy with the Peace Corps he sponsored. Thomas Jefferson with the Louisiana Purchase he acquired for America. Harry Truman with the United Nations he helped found. And every other American President. Of special interest, the firm signature of each honored President will be reproduced on each First Day Cover.

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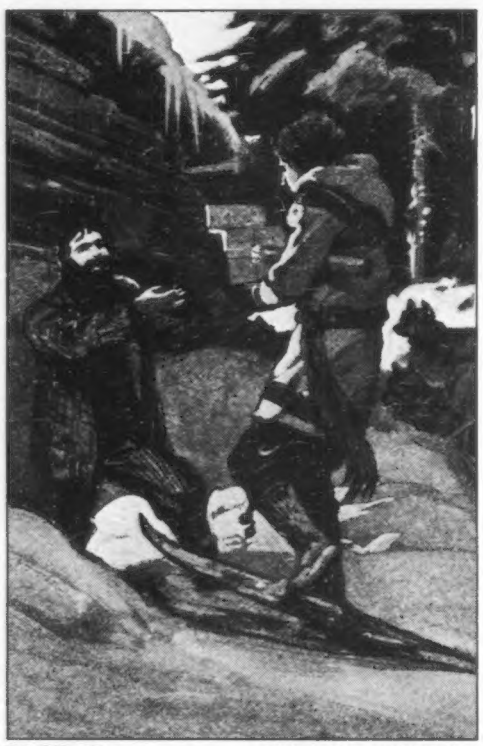
March/April 1986 Vol. XXIII, No. 2

American West

PAGE 30 HARRY CASEY WITH HIS PLANE



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PAGE 38 COURTESY LEVI'S RIDE & TIE

Cover

The originator of the ride and tie race calls it Western madness. Based on a custom found in England and colonial America at least as early as the first part of the eighteenth century, this type of race is now held in many places in the United States and is growing in popularity in western Europe. The photograph shows a scene from a Levi's Ride & Tie race at New Almaden, California, with rider Dana Hooper in the foreground. Runners following are Cathy Divito and Ron Whitney, who shows his loyalty by wearing Colorado state flag running shorts. The second rider is unidentified. This sample of the past in the present has a different twist.

AMERICAN WEST (ISSN 0003-1534) is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November for $15 per year by American West Publishing Company, 3033 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85719. Second-class postage paid at Tucson, Arizona, and additional post offices. **POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to AMERICAN WEST, Box 3733, Escondido, CA 92025.**

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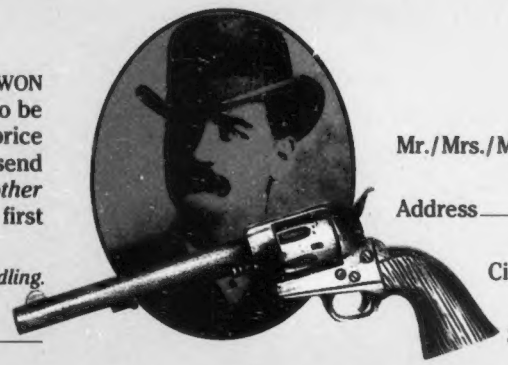

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View from the West

COURTESY WARNER AND SWASEY OBSERVATORY

This photograph of Comet Halley in the Western sky was taken on January 4, 1986, with a Burrell Schmidt telescope at Warner and Swasey Observatory, Kitt Peak station, in Arizona. At the time, the Comet had a beautiful blue tail, about six moon-diameters in length.

Just before Halley's Comet disappeared behind a bright curtain of full-moonlit nights last month, I caught a glimpse of something that won't pass my way again. A friend who lives atop a nearby ridge, who owns a powerful telescope, and has more than a passing knowledge of the night sky invited me over for a close look. The comet was making its way that evening just below Pegasus. Sailing beneath the great horse constellation, it was invisible to the naked eye but couldn't escape the optical reach of my neighbor's telescope. The silence of the night was broken only by the electric hum of the telescope's tracking motor chasing Halley across the sky.

As I waited my turn at the eyepiece I thought of all the earthlings — man and beast — who had, for as long as we can imagine, looked up at the night skies every seventy-six years to watch this foreign intruder streak through our solar system. But as I bent down to the glass that projected my vision far into outer space, a strong discomfort overcame me. Instead of being awed with the orbital, mathematical certainty that brought this visitor from outer space into my familiar little patch of sky, I was filled with foreboding, with a primitive revulsion, a dark fear.

The comet didn't fit into the patterns of the familiar night sky. It looked like a malevolent white cocklebur on the dark robe of the evening. A fuzzy white Moby Dick swimming out of place among the orderly constellations. An irregular, celestial melanoma growing cancerous on the familiar face of the heavens.

I pulled back from the eyepiece and listened to some good common twentieth-century scientific sense from my hilltop neighbor about the comet's long journey beyond Neptune during its recent absence. I resisted sharing my own unscientific, primitive impressions. But when I returned my scientifically sanitized gaze to the glass for another look, I found the modern mind once again rudely shoved aside by something other.

The something other, after closer scrutiny, turned out to be a different reflection on the wrinkles in time from the one we'd come for that evening. Astrogeologists believe that most life on land and sea was destroyed sixty-five million years ago by fire and ash that followed the collision of a huge asteroid or comet with the earth.

If a worldwide blackout snuffed out life on earth sixty-five million years ago following a holocaust caused by the huge intruder from outer space, a little primitive shudder over the destructive forces of dirty cosmic snowballs streaking through our solar system — reminders of things past, and, perhaps, of things to come — seemed in order.

Gazing through the optical glass at Comet Halley once again, I wondered how the sky appeared sixty-five million years ago as that life-consuming comet hurled toward the earth. Could the creatures of the day see it? Did it loom larger each successive evening, finally becoming ominously bright even during the day as it headed for its apocalyptic rendezvous with our fragile planet? Did the dinosaurs look up? Did they, like me, stand on a hillside and shudder?

This time around, enlightened twentieth-century minds find nothing to fear in the passing of a comet. If any ancient memory of sixty-five-million-year-old comets is tattooed someplace on our primitive brain stem's collective memory, its message is lost. Comet Halley is not the doomsday comet that came this way millions of years ago. Unmanned spaceships are flying out to meet it, analyze its gases, study its composition. It's just a scientific curiosity. Nothing to fear.

The real comet to fear at this end of the twentieth century orbits within: human fingers on atomic buttons. A threat more malignant and immediate than any comet that ever turned prehensile dinosaur claws skyward to shield reptilian eyes from the fireball headed for ground zero sixty-five million years ago.

Tom Pew

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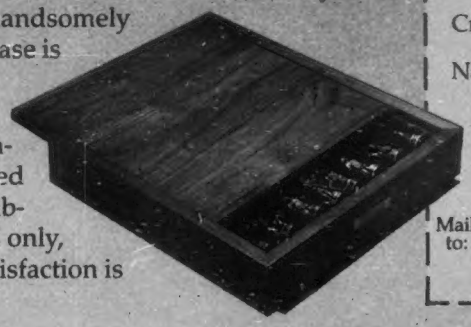

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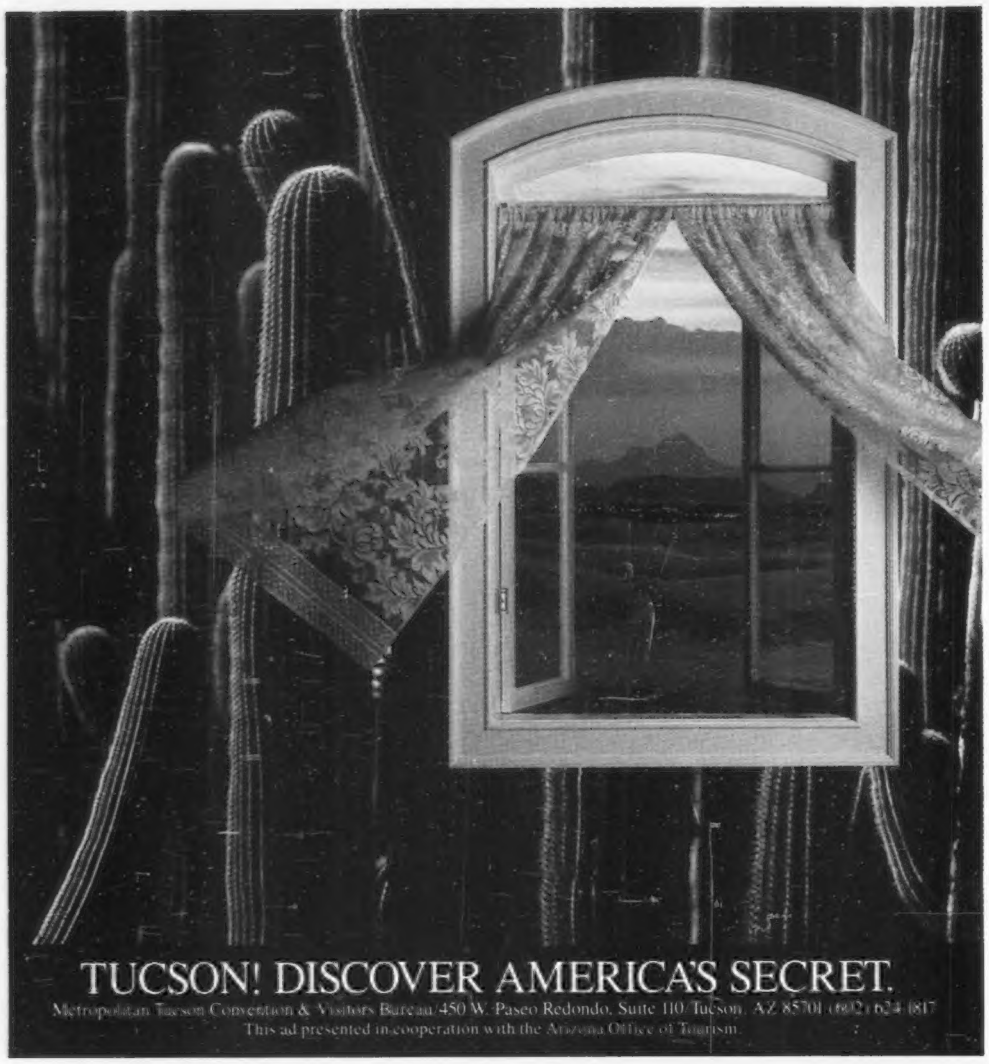
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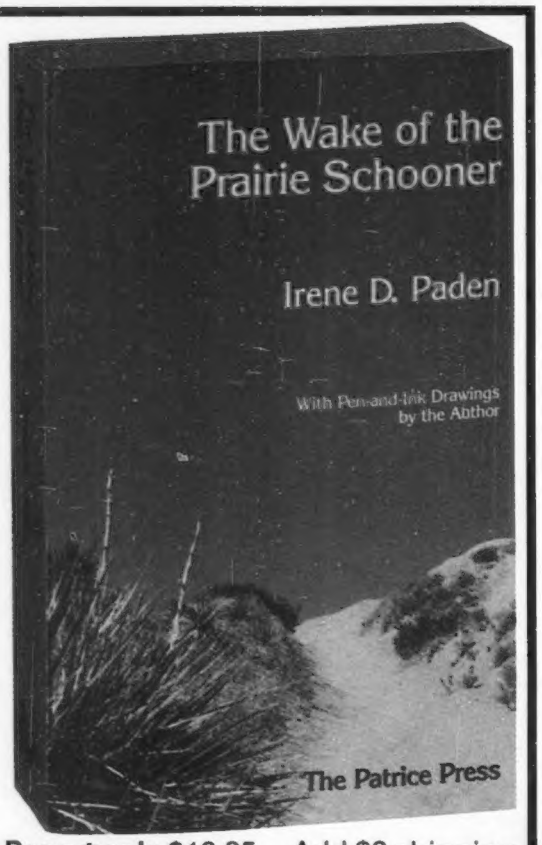

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AMERICAN WEST (ISSN 0003-1534) is published in January, March, May, July, September, and November by American West Publishing Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association, a nonprofit educational organization, Mrs. Henry H. R. Coe, chairman. Editorial, circulation, and advertising offices are reached at 3033 N. Campbell Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85719, tel. (602) 881-5850. Newsstand price: $3. Back issues: $5 (includes shipping). Subscriptions: one year $15; two years $25; three years $35 (outside the U.S. $4 per year extra). Subscription correspondence and orders should be sent to Box 3733, Escondido, CA 92025. AMERICAN WEST encourages writers to send a query letter and self-addressed, stamped envelope before submitting manuscripts. AMERICAN WEST is printed by R. R. Donnelley & Sons Company in Glasgow, Kentucky. Film preparation and color separations for editorial are by American Color Corporation, Tucson, Arizona; and typesetting by Typecraft, Tucson, Arizona. Copyright © 1986 by American West Publishing Company. Trademarks: "American West Trader", "American West Gallery", "American West Collectors", "The Western Traveler".

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PHOTO BY AUTHORS

Focus on the Eyes

by Erwin and Peggy Bauer

Last winter, as always, we spent many days photographing in Grand Teton National Park, and with good reason. First, it happens to be handy; the sanctuary begins just beyond our back door. However, we would willingly travel halfway around the world just to savor the matchless scenery and to watch the abundant wildlife. Last winter, as always, we exposed far more film than later seemed prudent. No park in the West is more photogenic from Christmas until the spring thaw.

Much of that photography by car and cross-country skis was extremely good, but some wasn't so satisfying. We blamed the poor results on fingers numbed by intense cold or on the blinding bright light reflected over an all-white landscape. But why were some exposures of elk and bison so much more appealing than others on the very same roll? Why did some of those creatures appear expressive and alert in one frame, but listless in the next? The answer could be found in the eyes, some of which were in sharp focus while others, less alive, were not.

Often all that prevents a fair-to-middling picture from being outstanding is the lack of sharpness or detail. It makes no difference if the subject is a spouse, child, family pet, or that Teton Park elk calf with the frosty muzzle. We usually discover the shortcoming—fuzziness—too late, when the slide is projected onto a screen or is sent away for an enlarged print that magnifies every fault. Camera movement can be the culprit, or too slow shutter speed. Occasionally the problem is optical. But far too frequently an otherwise good picture fails because the cameraman does not focus on the proper spot: the eyes.

The best possible advice for shooting living subjects is always to concentrate on, and focus on, the eyes. When composing a picture in the viewfinder, notice the bright bead or catchlight in the eye. This reflected highlight from the sun or sky or some artificial source of light is what makes any creature look truly alive and alert. Twist the lens-focusing ring until the highlight is pinpoint sharp, and you instantly transform an ordinary shot into a dramatic one. If the eye of the subject is genuinely sharp, the rest of the face will also be in focus, or sharp enough to rivet any viewer's attention.

Focusing on a subject's eye is not always easy. Many subjects, human as well as wild ones, are not comfortable under prolonged, steady eye (or camera lens) contact. The natural reaction is to look down or away. Many creatures try to avoid looking into the sun at any time. So a photographer must be very patient and have a few tricks up his sleeve. He must wait, for example, for the split second when a subject looks up and its eyes are not in deep shadow. Sometimes just moving a short distance away to change the camera angle or appearing disinterested in the target will cause it to look up.

We often use subtle sounds to gain the attention of an elk or deer. Loud noises such as stomping feet, shouting, or whistling are likely only to alarm the animal or, in some instances, cause it to behave aggressively. But moving the zipper of a jacket, scraping a fingernail over rough cloth, crushing a film box in the hand, or rubbing the lugged sole of a boot on the earth will probably cause an animal to be curious, at least briefly, and that should be long enough.

We have noticed that many wild creatures look most alert immediately after hearing the click of a shutter, especially the noise of a motor-driven camera, and therefore we immediately shoot a second frame. It is a technique that works amazingly well, particularly with animals that have not yet encountered too many photographers.

Catching the gleam in a subject's eye is easiest during early mornings and late afternoons, when all outdoor photography is better anyway. Occasionally we find it just as easy to focus on the wet nose or on the whiskers as on the eyes of mammals. Focusing on an eye, as a rifleman aims at the small bull's-eye rather than the whole target, is a discipline that will always pay off in more exciting slides or prints.

Of course there are still other ways to achieve or improve sharpness. One means may be optical. You may very well have the wrong (for you) focusing screen inside your viewfinder or one that is not compatible with your vision. Although all of the popular 35SLR camera systems offer a variety of interchangeable focusing screens that are inserted inside the viewfinder, most cameras today come equipped with a matte fresnel

field surrounding a circular split-image range-finder spot. Perhaps some photographers really do prefer these split images out of old habit. But our advice is to discard these abominations immediately and substitute a focusing screen with an overall finely ground matte field, often called a Type D screen. The latter will make focusing easy and quick rather than a challenge.

Bifocal eyeglasses can make accurate focusing difficult, too, but after hearing your problem, any good optometrist can prescribe glasses that will work well for you. When wearing glasses, the camera eyepiece should be encircled with a rubber ring to prevent scratching the lenses, a particularly easy thing to do with plastic lenses. Most 35SLR camera systems also offer a selection of eyepiece correction lenses called diopters that screw into the viewfinder eyepiece. These permit both nearsighted and farsighted users to view and focus sharply without their glasses. A soft rubber eyecup that prevents extraneous light from entering the viewfinder can also be helpful. Wearing a baseball-type cap with a long bill reduces glare and eyestrain.

Camera movement is another reason pictures may not be sharp. We rarely shoot by hand-holding the camera while standing up if it is possible to sit or to steady the camera against some stationary object. A rock, a tree limb, a fence post, or the windowsill of a car (with the motor turned off) are a few examples of things easily available that help eliminate movement. When sitting down it is possible to use the knees and body as the three legs of a tripod.

Something as basic as just holding the 35SLR camera properly can reduce camera shift. Stand comfortably, feet apart. Cradle the camera and lens in the palm of the left hand, using the thumb and forefinger to focus. The right hand holds the right side of the camera body, the forefinger on the shutter release button. Set the shutter speed at 1/250th of a second if the exposure permits. In this manner the weight of the unit rests on both hands, allowing the photographer to concentrate entirely on what he sees in the viewfinder without shifting or changing hands.

A convenient, lightweight monopod can eliminate most camera movement, and a sturdy tripod will hold a camera rock-still. We use these whenever it is practical. But with living subjects such as wildlife, a tripod can be as much a hindrance as a benefit.

To sum up: Few photographs of living things are very effective unless the eyes are visible, sharp, and bright. To achieve that you need proper optics, a steady hand, a fast enough shutter speed, and concentration on the highlights.

In Arizona, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument along the Mexican border and Saguaro National Monument near Tucson are good destinations for the photographer in search of wildlife. Many wild subjects live free or seminaturally at Tucson's Arizona–Sonora Desert Museum. In southern California consider Joshua Tree National Monument, Anza Borrego Desert State Park, and the San Diego Wild Animal Park near Escondido.

Yellowstone and Grand Teton National parks and the National Elk Refuge in northwestern Wyoming are superb places for nature photography. However, many roads that are busy in summer are closed during winter and early spring, and travel is restricted. For information, write: John Olson, Director, Yellowstone Park Division, TW Services, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190. A visiting photographer should prepare both himself and his equipment for intense cold and deep snow. Cross-country skis and snowshoes can be worthwhile additions to photographic equipment.

Erwin and Peggy Bauer *are authors of* Wildlife Adventures with a Camera, *an all-color guide to nature photography worldwide. It is available from Travel-Adventure-Outdoors, Box 543, Teton Village, Wyoming 83025 for $45 plus $2 postage/handling. Autographed copies on request.*

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Letters to the Editor

Correction—Corsicana Derrick Days

It was with pleasure that I read your Texas Travel Calendar in the January/February 1986 edition of American West. However, our tenth annual event Derrick Days was shown with an incorrect date on page 56.

Our annual week-long event has never been in October and is scheduled for April 5 through 13, 1986.

J. R. Acker, President
Derrick Days '86
Corsicana, Texas

AMERICAN WEST *regrets the error.*

Patton and Desert Training Center

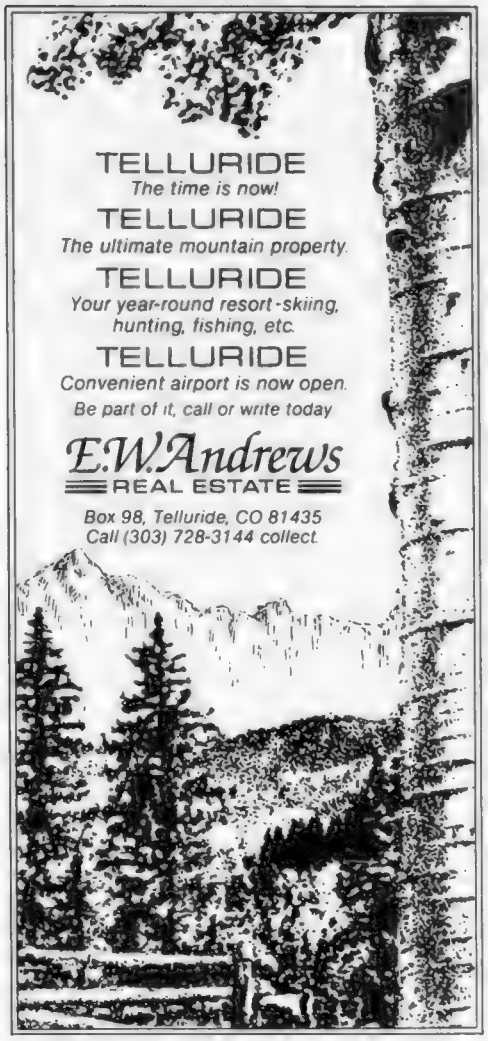
As an amateur historian of the Desert Training Center, I enjoyed your "premier newsstand issue," November/December 1985. I, too, attended the May 8th Patton Memorial Dedication. Your comments in the first paragraph, page 24, about *only* congressmen's assistants attending reflects my thoughts on that day, too. Pretty shabby treatment, as usual, of vets. As you probably know, the November 11th Museum Dedication was stopped midceremony by a rainstorm. This would have been an even bigger event including more restored military vehicles from our Club.

An unfortunate result of all the publicity given to the DTC by the Bureau of Land Management is an increase in vandalism. I've been exploring the campsites for only three years, some of our members for fifteen to twenty years. The increase of destruction is just the excuse the BLM needs to close off these areas.

Francis G. Blake
Military Vehicle Collectors Club
Fullerton, California

Your November/December issue with the Patton story was excellent. However, there was nary a mention of the General Patton Memorial Museum to be built at the Camp Young site on ten acres of donated land. Nor did you mention the November 11th Reunion and Celebration honoring Patton and his troops at Chiriaco Summit—Camp Young Airport. We have scheduled another reunion USO Show for May 3, 1986—the demand was great.

Margit Baldivid, Chairman
General Patton Memorial, Inc.
Chiriaco Summit, California



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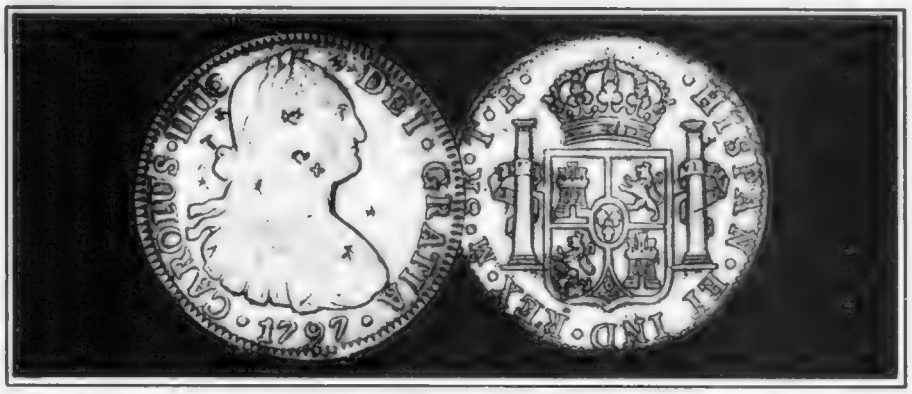

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If you prefer, send check or money order in full amount to: International Coins & Currency, Inc., Dept. 884, 11 East State St., Box 218 Montpelier, Vermont 05602. Add $3.75 for 1 coin or $5.00 for more than 1 coin to cover postage and insurance. Special presentation cases for individual coins are also available at $2.50 each. Mr. Douglas Schneible, ICC's Numismatic Director is Life Member No. 1305 in the American Numismatic Association. All coins are available for prompt delivery.

Colonel Julius Blatt, USA (retired), military adviser for the TV movie *The Last Days of Patton* ("George C. Scott Gives Patton a Fair Shake" by Jeff DeRome, your November/December issue) is responsible for the accuracy of the production. He reports: "I've never been overruled [by the director]. [He] has accepted my recommendations at all times." Perhaps the good Colonel should have been overruled a time or two, as there appear to be several instances of inaccuracy in the portrayal of Patton.

The Myres Belt and holster Patton wears on the front cover of the issue should be brown in color rather than black. Also, Patton is depicted wearing both his Colt single action and .357 Magnum Smith & Wesson. The two-gun image of Patton is largely the creation of inventive reporters (see Charles M. Prince, *The Unknown Patton*, page 39). We know of no photograph of Patton showing him wearing his U.S. insignia at an angle as in the George C. Scott photograph (page 33). In addition, when riding his horse well behind the front lines, his pitted combat helmet would have been replaced with a lacquered helmet liner adorned on the side with the emblems of various units under his command.

We look forward to viewing *The Last Days of Patton* and trust the minor inaccuracies will not detract from the effort to give Patton a "fair shake."

Gary Holman
Martin M. Teasley
Abilene, Kansas

Am enclosing copy of your November/December magazine cover. I hope I never see any more like it. Let's leave the strange photos off the cover.

Have received your magazine two years and enjoy it. But please pick out a nice cover, not one I am embarrassed to have.

Henry Hacker
Hopkins, Minnesota

Congratulations. Your November/December 1985 is the best damn issue you've published since I've been receiving AMERICAN WEST—and that's over five years. Thank you.

C. J. O'Sullivan
Houston, Texas

Halley's Comet

Just a note to say after buying new higher-powered binoculars and following the directions in "Taurus—the Key to Halley's Comet" by O. Richard Norton (your November/December 1985), we were able to find Halley's Comet on November 17.

The odd thing is that Mr. Norton's paper in AMERICAN WEST was the only thing we found to give detail enough to find the Comet.

We wish to thank Mr. Norton for his effort to educate us and make our evening a pleasure.

Robert Taro
Modesto, California

Texas Trails Map

In your map of the Texas Trails (January/February 1986), you moved College Station about 200 miles east so that it is directly south of Nacogdoches. If you will check certified maps, you will note that College Station is northeast of Austin.

After our record snowstorm last January, *The New York Times* placed San Antonio north of Austin on their weather map. I expected this lack of knowledge of the geography of Texas by the publishers of an Eastern Establishment paper, but Arizonans should know where the home of the Texas Aggies is located.

Billie B. Kemper
San Antonio, Texas

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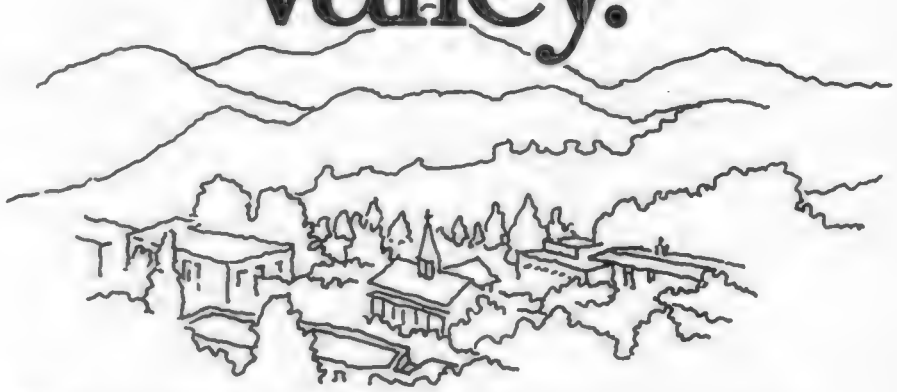

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Chalk Mountain Masonic Lodge

The January/February 1986 issue of AMERICAN WEST included a very good picture of Chalk Mountain Masonic Lodge on page 71. You state that the Lodge is abandoned. *However, it is not*. It is an active Masonic Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Texas. The stated meeting is on the first Saturday night after the full moon each month.

B. E. Davis
Arlington, Texas

AMERICAN WEST *regrets that the photographer misinformed us.*

Support for Tom Horn

I would like to offer a few observations relative to the article "Marshal Joe LeFors vs Killer Tom Horn" in the November/December issue.

The case first interested me because I thought perhaps Kels P. Nickell was a distant relative. By the time this notion was disproved, I was hopelessly hooked on the story. So I visited the Iron Mountain Country in September 1985 to find the Nickell and Miller homesteads and to see the place where Willie Nickell was killed.

Jim Miller was the one who first homesteaded in the Iron Mountain Country. Victor Miller was one of his sons, just a couple of years older than Willie Nickell. Kels Nickell and Jim Miller had been feuding for years—long before Kels brought sheep into the country—and their violent quarrels naturally evolved into disputes between their boys.

When Willie was killed, the Millers immediately became prime suspects, but hard evidence was lacking, and apparently LeFors concluded that a better case could be made against Tom Horn. The methods and procedures he used in producing Horn's so-called confession violated every rule in the book.

I was shown around the old Miller and Nickell homesteads by the great-grandson of Jim Miller. The family has thoughtfully and carefully preserved a section of the barbed wire pasture fence and the gate where Willie was shot. When the officers went out to the ranch to investigate Willie's death, they placed a ring of stones around the spot where the body was found. Those stones have also been protected by the Miller family and have remained there undisturbed since July 19, 1901. The Miller and Nickell homes are gone as is the schoolhouse.

The shots that killed Willie were fired at a range of about 200 yards from an outcropping

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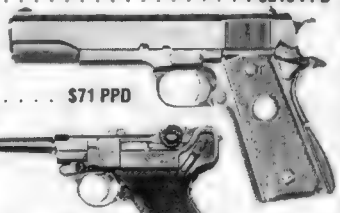

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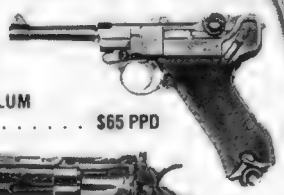

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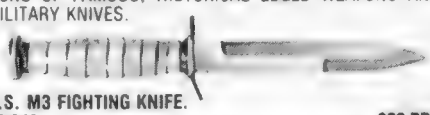

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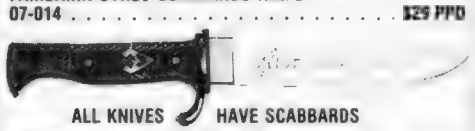

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of rocks overlooking the pasture gate. As I sat on that ledge and imagined Willie riding up, dismounting and opening the barbed wire gate, I suddenly became one of those convinced that Tom Horn did not kill Willie Nickell. Horn would have been hired by the open-range cattlemen to kill Kels Nickell but never his fourteen-year-old son. This has always been rationalized as a case of mistaken identity, but no one sitting on that ledge could make himself believe that Horn, with his great ability and experience as a scout in the Apache Indian wars and as a "range detective," could ever make such an error. He had visited Kels in his home, knew him and the boys well, and simply would never have mistaken Willie for his father as he watched the boy open the pasture gate. I don't doubt that Horn needed hanging—and perhaps LeFors seized a golden opportunity—but I believe someone else killed Willie.

Phillip G. Nickell
Mesilla, New Mexico

Presidio La Bahia

In regard to Francis L. Fugate's notes on the Texas Independence Trail in your special Texas issue (January/February), we down here in Goliad were a little taken back by the statement that Spanish "conquistadores established a presidio" here "as they explored new lands for God, Gold and Glory."

Presidio Real Nuestra Senora de Loreto de la Bahia de Espiritu Santo was established by the Royal Governor, the Marques de Aguayo, in 1721 near present-day Port Lavaca. It was moved twice before finding a permanent home here in Goliad in 1749. The fort was established by presidial soldiers who were far from searching for "God, Gold & Glory." They were here simply to protect this section of New Spain, particularly from the French. Presidio La Bahia never saw a single Spanish "conquistadore." It did, during its three occupations by three different nations, participate in three national wars for independence, was the scene of the longest siege in Texas military history, and was the site of the infamous Goliad massacre of 1836.

Kevin R. Young
Presidio La Bahia
Goliad, Texas

Custer again

Regarding the Custer nonsense in your January/February 1986 issue, Letters to the Editor: Unlike one of your readers I do not consider Indian blood, a modest amount of Mohawk in my case, a substitute for historical fact.

George Armstrong Custer was never at war with Indian People as such. Rightly or wrongly, he was sent to fight the Lakota Confederacy and its allies. Pawnee, Lenape, and Crow or Sparrow-Hawk People were fighting on Custer's side against a common enemy.

The Cherokee were not remotely involved. It was Winfield Scott, not poor "Yellowhair" who supervised the earlier infamous Trail of Tears and, by the way, had the compassion to complain in writing about the short supplies that made the forced move of the Civilized Tribes so brutal as well as unjust.

The squaw-killing charge against the Seventh Cav springs from persistent confusion between two actions against the same band of South Cheyenne. The Colorado Militia massacred unresisting men, women, and children at the "Battle" of Sand Creek, Colorado. Custer's attack at the Washita, at a time the Cheyenne were on the warpath, did in fact result in some women and children going down in the cross fire. But the Seventh Cav took many casualties and rescued several white girls held captive by the "innocent" Black Kettle. Indian survivors were taken to a reserve, not massacred.

What everyone forgets about Little Big

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Horn was that Custer was not in command of the expedition. Scouting for Terry's column, he was *ordered* into the no-win situation and simply beaten fair and square by superior forces. Custer does not sound like a man I'd like to invite to supper. But let's be fair to a soldier who was simply doing his duty as he was ordered to.

Lou Cameron
New York, New York

Rainbow Arch

This is in reference to a letter in your November/December 1985 issue concerning the accessibility of the Rainbow Arch [in Arizona] and the note in Western Lookout in the July/August 1985 issue.

The "slick rock" referred to in the letter and the statement was encountered on the "long way round," which was the trail from Kayenta to the Arch, pioneered by John Wetherill. Anyone who rode a horse over that "slick rock" was either a fool or a glutton for punishment and not at all considerate of his mount. This trip with good luck took from ten days to two weeks.

The other way was the one-day trip from Navajo Lodge, established by Hubert Richardson who was at that time the trader at Cameron, but the trail had been discovered by the Bernheimer-Wetherill expedition attempting to find a shorter route to the Arch by way of Bridge Canyon and Red Bud Pass, after three attempts to do so. The Lodge was built *after* the easier route had been found by Bernheimer and Wetherill. This trail *could* be ridden *all* the way on horseback.

This writer visited the Arch on April 22, 1926, and his name appears on line 552 in the register that was kept in an iron box beneath the Arch. This register is now at National Park Service headquarters, Page, Arizona.

Michael Harrison
Fair Oaks, California

Arbuckles' coffee

Francis L. Fugate's article ["Arbuckles'—the Coffee That Won the West" wins Spur Award, January/February] brought back many memories to me. It may have been the "coffee that won the West," but it was also the foundation of our family's income.

My father, William F. Hein of Chicago, was salesman for Arbuckles' Coffee in the state of Illinois for many years until they went out of business. My brother, William F. Hein, Jr., of Roselle, accompanied my father many times to Navy Pier, where the office was based in Chicago. I wish I had many of the Arbuckles' posters he brought home.

I will be interested in reading proposed book.

Mrs. Hazel L. Gillmore
Bristol, Wisconsin

Kudos

I've enjoyed reading AMERICAN WEST and appreciate your efforts to produce this fine magazine. But I want to state, the best article I've read is the "View from the West" by Tom Pew in the January/February 1986 issue. A great big thanks for that one.

James W. Tuggle
Dallas, Texas

I need a copy of an article, "A Room at the Top," Hidden Inns, July/August 1985. I would like to make a reservation to stay there and must have loaned my copy of AMERICAN WEST.

Mrs. D. L. Shanafelt
Portland, Oregon

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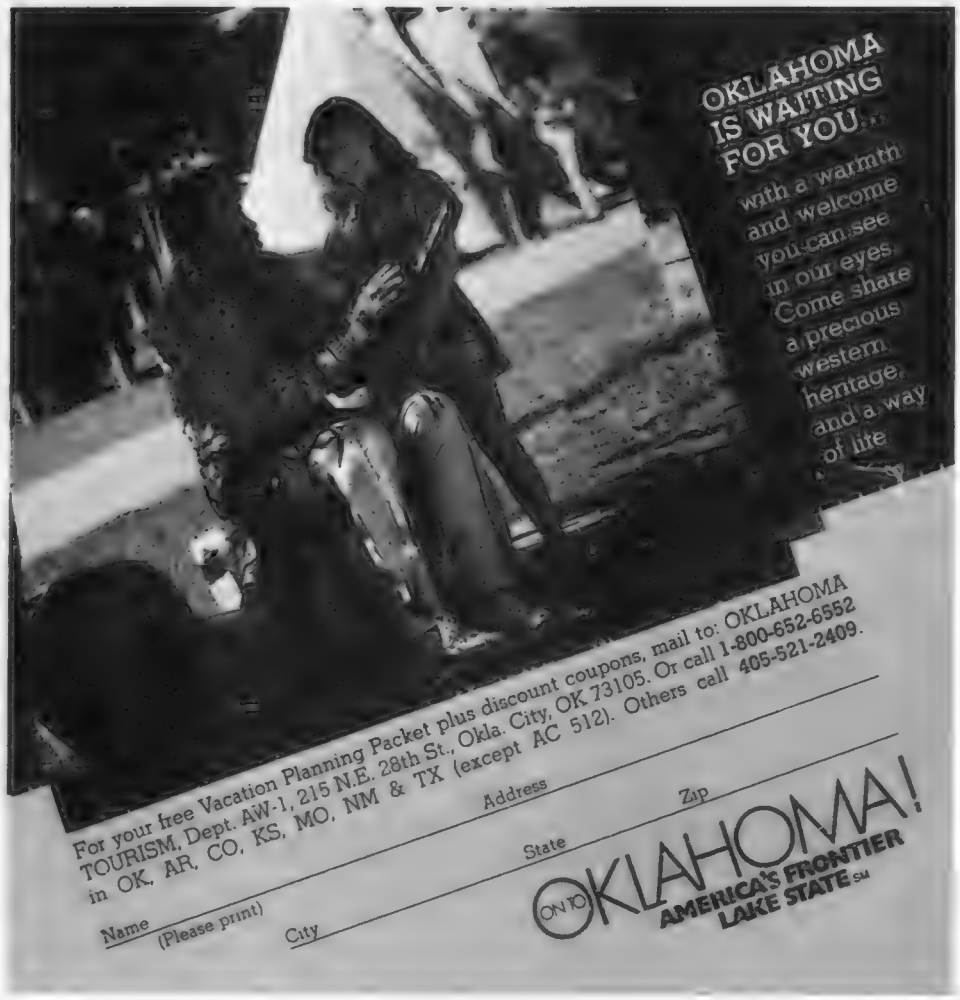
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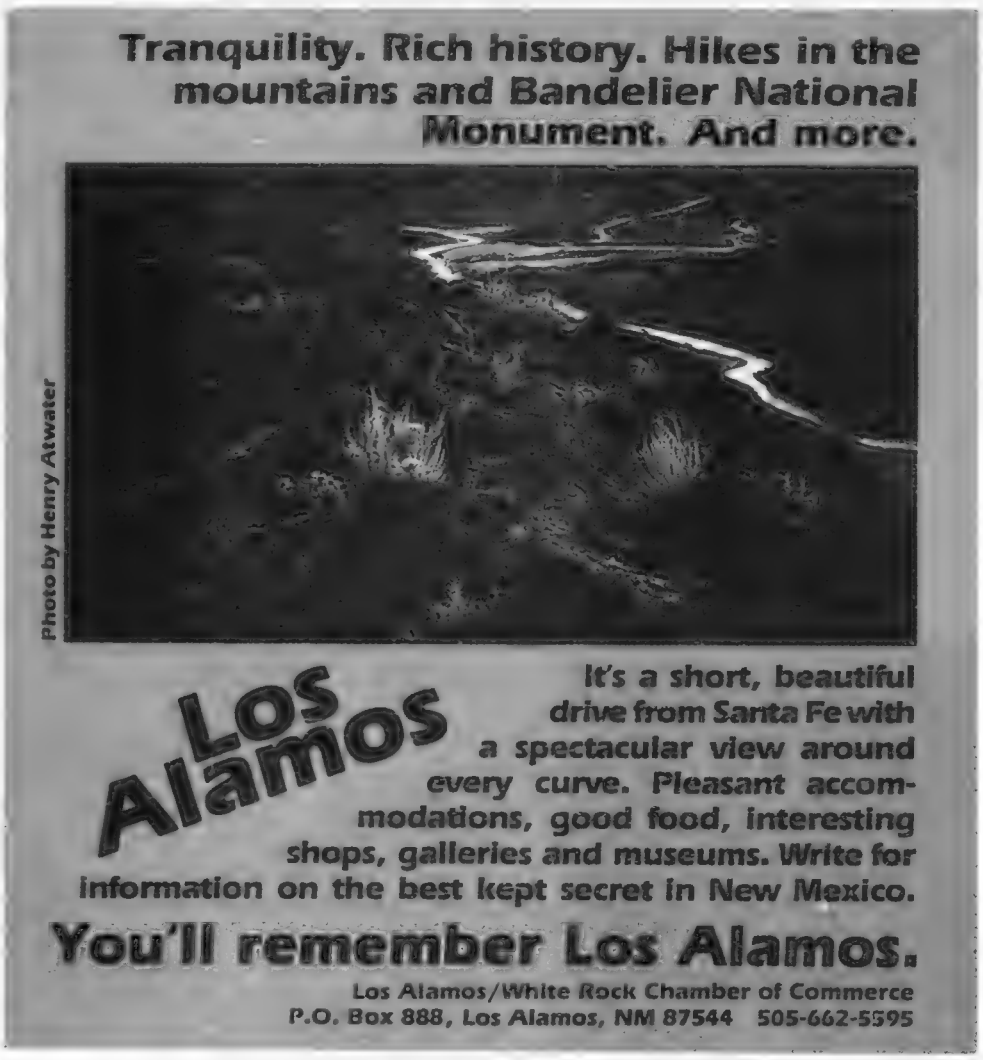
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Children of the Grapes of Wrath

A handmade school saved Okie kids for a happy ending

by Jerry Stanley

IN THE QUIET RURAL COMMUNITY OF SHAFTER, CALIfornia, just north of Bakersfield, an old man with a twinkle in his eye sits in a rocking chair. Back in the1930s townsfolk called him a communist. Today he has their respect and admiration. Wild dogs, dirt roads, abandoned farm machinery, and a flooded field make his isolated cottage nearly inaccessible. Leo Hart doesn't travel much anymore or see many people, but at the age of eighty-nine he has a keen mind, a sharp wit, and a story worth telling.

Remember the Depression and the Dust Bowl Migration? The Joads, *The Grapes of Wrath,* the old jalopies and flatbed trucks loaded down with pots and pans and bedding and desperate-looking people? Leo Hart does. It all happened the way Steinbeck described it, Leo says, except for the children of the Grapes of Wrath. In the book, and in the academy award-winning film, the Joads end up at Weedpatch Camp, broke, without work, and with little hope for the future. Not so. In 1939 Leo Hart was elected Superintendent of Kern County Schools, and he built a school next to Weedpatch Camp just for the children of the Grapes of Wrath. The story of that school, as Leo tells it, is nothing less than amazing.

Nineteen thirty-nine was a hard year for the Dust Bowlers. Drought still gripped the Central Plains and the Southwest, and Route 66, bearing weary migrants from Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas to Kern County, California, was still crowded with people wearing baggy overalls, tattered dresses, and the look of down-and-out poverty. They called themselves "Okies." They were proud of their origins, though nature had struck them a mighty blow. Most of the Okies believed there was work in California; so they joined the caravan of Model A's and ramshackle buses and headed for the Great San Joaquin, the rich agricultural valley where, they heard, pickers were needed. By 1940, some 180,000 migrants had settled in the rural areas of the San Joaquin Valley, and Kern County experienced its greatest population explosion, over 70% between 1935 and 1940. Year after year they came, looking for work, any kind of work.

The reception the Dust Bowlers received was less than hospitable, for most residents of Kern County saw them as an unproductive lot, socially unacceptable. In 1938 irate farmers, armed with pitchforks, guns, bricks, and clubs, attacked the migrants of Weedpatch Camp at night and tried to drive them out. Hundreds of Okies went to jail, but they returned to the camp. In 1940 the County banned *The Grapes of Wrath* from its public libraries. Armed patrols guarded the County's borders, Leo Hart recalls, and the sheriff, goaded on by an outraged citizenry, burned down the migrant camp under the Kern River Bridge because of unsanitary conditions. "They were victims of the greatest economic depression this country has ever experienced," Leo observes, and he remembers seeing the migrants living "on ditch banks, in shacks, in tents, in squalor and filth." Still they came. And perhaps as many as two-thirds of the transients were children who shared the adversity of their parents—and faced additional hostility as well.

The children looked like war-refugees from some distant country, and in a way they were. Their hand-me-down trousers and skirts didn't fit so well as they could have; so, rope and twine were used to hold the clothing up. A soup bowl and a pair of old scissors were used to give Okie haircuts, string to keep ponytails from unraveling. Those who had shoes were lucky if they had socks. All the kids looked undernourished and in need of medical attention. They spoke a different language, they possessed a different culture, they lacked skills in hygiene, in

"manners, morals, and etiquette," Hart recollects.

With little or no formal education, the children of the Dust Bowl crowded into Kern County's schools—the results were predictable. Teachers and taxpayers believed the newcomers were "uneducable," and their appearance offended community standards. Swiftly, these children were either banned from the public schools or forced to sit on the floor in the back of crowded classrooms where they felt humiliated. The Parent–Teacher Association excluded migrant parents from its meetings. Teachers ignored the unkempt pupils. Fellow students, using the term disparagingly, called the outcasts "Okies." With their fists they defended themselves, and harsh discipline or dismissal followed.

ENTER THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, a Western pragmatist if there ever was one. Compassionate, optimistic, energetic in a cause, Hart had earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Arizona and had served as head counselor in the Kern County High School District before becoming superintendent in 1939. "The big problem for me," Leo said, "was to find out what to do for these children to get them adjusted into society and to take their rightful place." He saw the Dust Bowl children as having special physical, social, and educational needs but he also saw them as "ordinary kids with the same hopes and dreams the rest of us have." With initiative, hard work, and a dose of Western pragmatism—and without aid from federal, state, or local governments—the children of the Grapes of Wrath just might take their rightful place. Hart thought so.

When the Okie kids arrived, they were undernourished and sickly. Social ostracism added to their problems. This little girl was among those who benefitted from Leo Hart's compassion and pragmatism, emphasizing what the kids could become, not what they were.

ALL PHOTOS FROM AUTHOR'S COLLECTION

First, Leo tried to place the migrant children in the outlying rural schools, but he met stiff opposition. Said a high-ranking school official in the Arvin-Lamont area (southwest of Bakersfield near Weedpatch Camp): "You're not going to spend our money for these — —. You can't educate these — —. They're going to grow up just like their fathers and mothers. They're a shiftless lot. They've got no brains." Letters and phone calls from parents in the area were equally blunt, and at least two educators called Hart a communist and warned that his job might be in jeopardy, though he had held it only a few months.

So Leo decided the Dust Bowl children should have their own school. Accordingly, he persuaded the Arvin-Lamont School Board to declare that an "emergency" existed and to give him permission to build a school adjacent to Arvin Federal Camp (Weedpatch Camp in *The Grapes of Wrath*). Hart became a close friend of Dewey Russell, who was managing the camp when Steinbeck visited it and wrote about it. With Dewey's help, in 1940 Hart leased a ten-acre site from the federal government for ten dollars and established Arvin Federal Emergency School, which started with no grass, no sidewalks, no playground equipment, no toilets, no water, no books, no teachers. It started, Leo remembers, with two condemned buildings and "fifty poorly clad, undernourished, and skeptical youngsters."

Leo said his goal was to provide the unwanted children "with educational experiences in a broader and richer curriculum than were present in most schools." He did that—and

more. Before the school opened in September 1940, Hart visited several colleges and universities in California and sought out "the best teachers . . . teachers whose attitudes indicated that they were really interested in this type of student and wanted to help in this program." Teachers like Jim McPherson, who finished his doctorate from Columbia University while working at Arvin School, then later taught at the University of California at Los Angeles, Drake University, and the University of Indiana before employment with the United States Office of Education. Teachers like Charlene McGhee, who mastered animal husbandry, besides the 3Rs, and taught the care and feeding of livestock. Teachers like Edith Hougham, who used her own paychecks to buy food for the kids and served them hot cocoa every day for months until the school cafeteria was completed. Teachers like Fred Smith, who was hired as a music teacher for one day a week but usually worked on weekends for free. At the end of the year Leo sent Fred his yearly check for $600, and Fred sent it back.

Then Leo became a beggar, a borrower, a scrounger of wood and nails, of books and paper, of whatever he could lay his hands on that might be of some use. "I became a panhandler," he remembers, and why not? It was the Depression. He stumped the County for donations of supplies and materials; his pitch was just what the community wanted to hear: the Dust Bowl kids would be withdrawn from the public schools, they would be set off from the community in a separate school, and the school would not cost the taxpayers "a single cent," as Leo used to say. From the National Youth Authority, he secured 25,000 bricks. From the Sears Roebuck Foundation, an assortment of sheep, pigs, and cows. From local nurseries, plants and vegetables. From local ranchers, farm machinery.

In September 1940, on a barren stretch of land marked by piles of bricks and boards and boxes of whatnot, Leo met with his faculty, introduced them to "fifty skeptical students," and told them all to get to work. They did. Brick by brick, board by board, the children of the Dust Bowl, along with Hart and his staff, built Arvin Federal Emergency School. They laid a one-quarter-inch pipe between Weedpatch Camp and the school; the school had water. Teachers instructed the pupils on hygiene; then the migrants built two "outdoor facilities" and used them. Orange crates and wooden boxes were fashioned into chairs, desks, and tables. Bricks were laid to make three "temporary" classrooms, which could be used only as long as an "emergency" existed. If the migrant children did not "goof-off," if they kept up on their academics, Leo let them dig in their spare time, "dig on the hole" they called it, which eventually became the only public school swimming pool in Kern County. While helping the migrants lay reinforcement

"educational experiences in a broader and richer curriculum." The girls needed a home economics building. No problem. An old railroad car was located and moved to the school where the boys added plumbing, wired the boxcar, and remodeled its interior. They learned carpentry, plastering, masonry, built pens for livestock, dug a basement to store slaughtered cattle, plowed fields for raising school-grown vegetables—they made *their* school completely self-sufficient. They were proud; their parents were proud. "The longer we ran the school," Hart said, "the longer the people stayed. The greater portion of them stayed there and would stay the year round and work so that their kids could stay in this school. It was the first time that they had ever had anything of their own, where all the attention was on them, where they were given the best and they knew everyone was for them. That was something to watch."

Something to watch—quiet moments in heroism. Pete Bancroft, the principal of Arvin Federal, used $200 out of his pay to buy a C-47 airplane from surplus and have it carted to the school. "I taught them aircraft mechanics," he says from his retirement home in San Diego, "and if they maintained a grade of 90% or better in arithmetic, I let them drive the plane

(Opposite) ***Weary families arrived at Weedpatch Camp with their belongings in bundles tied to run-down cars. Each day brought its quota of despair as life played a bag of dirty tricks on these Okie outcasts.*** (Left, top to bottom) ***Superintendent of Kern County Schools Leo Hart smiles with some of his young friends at the emergency school he set up for them and which the older students helped to build. He holds the child whom he often walked around the schoolyard until she was ready to go inside. Eighth-grade Weedpatch boys learn aircraft mechanics in an old C-47 plane that their school principal, Pete Bancroft, bought for them. Excellence in the third R won a ride down the makeshift runway. Students at the school raised their own food, including this pen of hungry porkers.***

rods and concrete for the pool, Leo wore old overalls, as did his faculty. He sawed lumber, he dug ditches, he painted buildings, but "the children of the Dust Bowl built the school," Leo says. "It was *their* school."

ONE DAY A LOCAL BUTCHER HEARD ABOUT THE "OKIE school" and wandered out to the site. His name and whereabouts have been forgotten, but Leo remembers the man spent ten hours at the school that day slaughtering pigs and cows and instructing the children until they learned the basic skills of a butcher. This is what Hart meant by down the makeshift runway and back." He put his own son in the school and brought a doctor and nurse out to care for the sickest children. He remembers dispensing cod liver oil and orange juice between meals until the first crops came in and the school cafeteria was built and paid for, in part, with $250 from the first crop of potatos. Teachers Rose Gilger and Beverly Ahrens worked in that cafeteria as well as in the classroom, and like other faculty took the kids into town on Sundays to go to church and to accept donations of food and clothing from local merchants and the Salvation Army. The teachers, Hart says, "went out of their way to help these children and teach

them things about themselves and the world that they couldn't learn anywhere else.'' Leo might have been thinking about Barbara Sabovitch. She taught the young girl pupils how to use toothpaste, face cream, rouge, lipstick, and mascara—and how to make these products in a chemistry lab. Something to watch.

''A miracle,'' one of Leo's teachers calls it. ''The children were very light complected, blond hair, blue eyes, and fragile looking,'' first-grade teacher Marie Marble says, ''and almost all of them needed help in language, in expressing themselves, and they were shy and retiring.'' Marie describes the school as ''a series of bungalows'' where ''the children had real life experiences which would help them later on.'' Mariel Hunter agrees. ''Everyone pitched in to make it grow. We all worked together like one big happy family, and *grow* we did together. . . . The kids appreciated everything you did for them because they had so little to light up their lives.'' Mariel recalls a girl in the eighth grade whose family was about to move

(Opposite) ***Boys as well as girls learned to prepare nutritious food for the cafeteria at Arvin Federal Emergency School.*** (Right, top to bottom) ***Leo Hart's self-help curriculum did not overlook the fundamentals of education; here, Okie kids join in a reading class. The rejected children helped build not only their school but the furnishings for it as well. With hammer and saw, students use orange crates and boxes to make their desks. Irrigating the school garden is the task for these boys and their teacher. Vegetables went to cooking classes and the cafeteria. In every case, activities served to better the condition of the children at the time and to prepare them for future employment.***

away. The girl wanted to stay in the school ''so badly'' and go on to high school—she planned to marry so she could stay in town. Mariel took the problem to Leo, and Leo found the girl a home where she could live in return for domestic work. Other teachers, Edith Hougham for instance, spent weekends at the school with children who were sick because ''they were better off in the nurse's room than at home in their one-room huts.'' Uniformly, they describe Leo as an ''angel,'' a ''saint,'' a ''caring man,'' as a man who ''saved the children.''

Altogether, from 1940 to 1944 about 300 migrant children attended Hart's handmade school, and gradually the community began to change its mind about educating the children of the Grapes of Wrath. Arvin Federal became known statewide for its lack of truancy and disciplinary problems. ''We left everything lying around,'' Leo recalls, ''and no one ever stole a thing.'' Members of the California Youth Authority, after visiting the school, wrote Hart commending him on ''the finest crime prevention program in the State of California,'' but, says Leo, there was no crime prevention program. ''It was *their* school and they took pride in it.'' So did the community. After a few years, the once-hostile residents were clamoring to get their children into Arvin Federal Emergency School. They would phone Hart and write letters seeking to transfer their kids to ''Weedpatch School.'' After all, it grew its own food, raised its own livestock, had the best teachers, a swimming pool, a C-47, and ''a richer and broader curriculum.'' With an unmistakable smile on his face, Leo recalls, ''The community that had threatened to drive the migrants out, and who resented their presence, came to accept them as part of the community and to work with them on a friendly cooperative basis.''

AND WHAT OF THE CHILDREN OF THE GRAPES OF WRATH who attended the school? What became of the ragamuffins in baggy pants and soiled dresses? Willard Melton laid his share of adobe bricks and plowed the fields season after season. Willard Melton is now a college professor. John Rutledge and Robert Faulkner graduated from high school as student body presidents, and John owns his own mining company in Utah, Robert his own business in California. Pete Bancroft's son, Ed, is a high school teacher, Bob Rutledge runs his own business in Bakersfield, Jim Wren teaches at West High School, Wesley Gosch is a dental technician, Bill Johnson owns two supermarkerts in Kern County, Tommy Ross and James Peel own construction companies in Hawaii and California, Jim Montgomery owns two restaurants in Boise, Idaho, his brother Bruce is a marketing manager for IBM, Joe Collins is a judge. . . . Janice Newton became the first woman painting contractor in Kern County, her sister Patsy owns a stereo store, Patty Anderson, one of the school's few black pupils, became a schoolteacher in Los Angeles, so did her sister. . . . Others went on to become legal secretaries, postal clerks, engineers, captains in the Kern County Fire Department, consultant investigators for the California Department of Industrial Relations. . . .

Businessman Bob Rutledge speaks for the migrant children. Bob made the trip from Arkansas in '36, and he has contact with nearly thirty of his classmates every month. "We're closely knit as a group," he says, while studying old photos of Arvin Federal. Pointing to a picture of the migrants in a typing class, he reflects: "Look at these people. They're not dumb." He speaks of poverty as being "in the mind" and says "we

never accepted poverty.'' He describes ''the Okie attitude'' in the Depression: ''This is what we are now, but it's not what we're going to be. Give us some time.'' He received ''nothing but kindness from the teachers.'' He says: ''Everybody should have that experience. You have to live it to understand it. I wouldn't trade my place for anybody's place.'' He talks of a ''pervading affection'' between the students, the teachers, and Leo Hart, and relates an example of what he means. ''The girls, when they got old enough, couldn't wear nylons because their hands were too rough from picking cotton. And they had to pick cotton to buy their dresses for the prom. But we understood,'' he adds. ''It was part of all of us, what we were and where we were going.''

Arvin Federal Emergency School ended in 1944. The District Attorney brought Hart an opinion from the Attorney General in Sacramento. The legal ruling stated that an ''emergency'' cannot last over five years, and therefore, Hart could no longer run his school. Within a matter of months, Arvin Federal was combined with another school in the district, and the two institutions are known today as Sunset School. Immediately, the trustees of Arvin School District petitioned Leo for permission to let their seventh and eighth grade students attend the school in the camp set aside for migrants. Hart complied, and nonmigrant students enrolled by the hundreds, suddenly outnumbering the migrants. It was no longer *their* school, but now that was of no importance. For the migrant children had learned remarkable lessons in journeying

A happy group of students and teachers smile their satisfaction at the success of their ***school. Leo Hart's compassion and practicality had turned desperation into hope.***

out of the Dust Bowl era—and so had the community.

The success of Leo's kids contrasts sharply with the bitter, bitter ending in *The Grapes of Wrath*. ''It had a happy ending,'' Leo says, as he rocks back and forth and remembers. He pauses for a moment and points to a photograph of himself and four of his pupils. He is holding one of the children, and she is wearing his hat. ''See that girl,'' he says. ''Sometimes, when she wasn't ready to go to school, I had to hold her and walk her around outside until she was ready. She liked to wear my hat.'' He smiles, then stares out the window across the dirt road and into the field. The smile spreads over his entire face.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE

Most of the information for this article came from personal interviews with Leo Hart at Shafter, California, February 2, 1977, and Noverber 28, 1984; Pete Bancroft, San Diego, November 26, 1984; Bob Rutledge, Bakersfield, November 29, 1984, and with correspondence with other pupils and teachers. Another useful source is Leo B. Hart, ''A Report on the Development of Kern County Schools, 1939–1946,'' MS., n.p., n.d., in the California State College, Bakersfield, Library. Most of the photos were taken by Pete Bancroft and Leo Hart. *California and the Dust Bowl Migration* by Walter J. Stein (Greenwood Press, 1973) is useful for studying the topic in a broad perspective.

Jerry Stanley *is a free-lance writer and Professor of History at California State University, Bakersfield, where he teaches the American West.*

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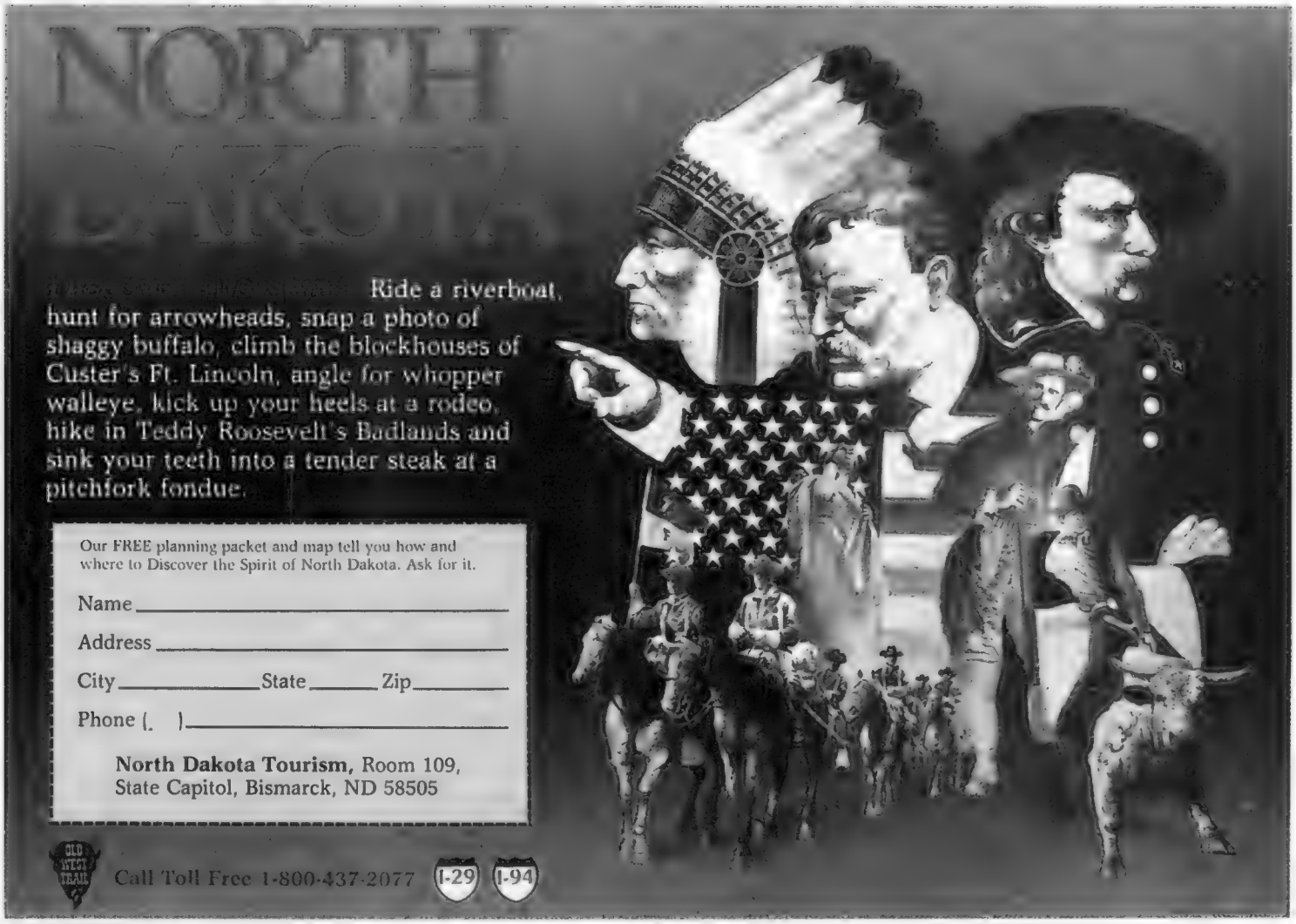

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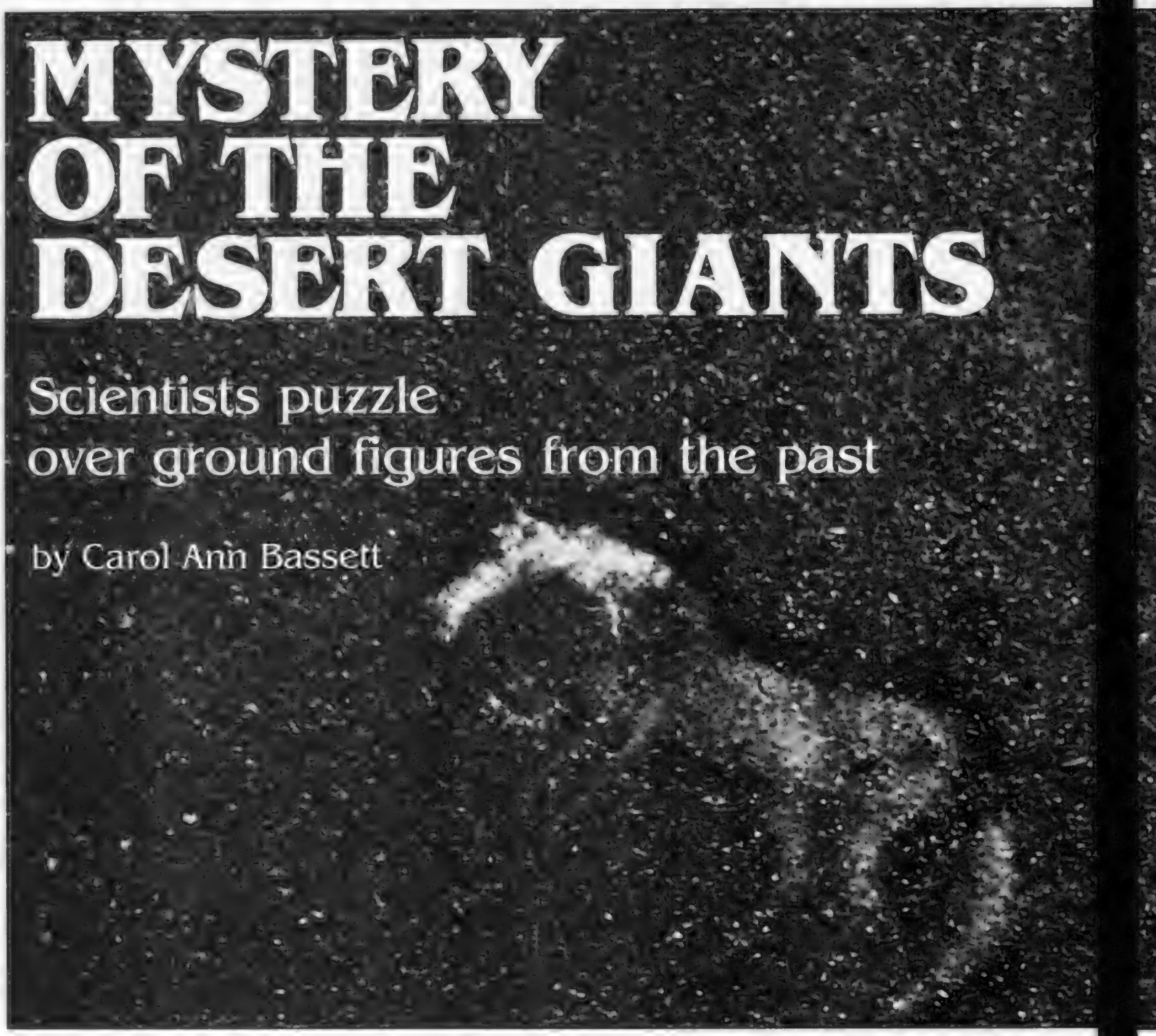
MYSTERY OF THE DESERT GIANTS

Scientists puzzle over ground figures from the past

by Carol Ann Bassett



HARRY CASEY SHIFTS HIS BASEBALL CAP AND BANKS his small plane to the north, circling the flat surface of a rocky bluff in the Mojave Desert. "Look out here to the left," he shouts over the roar of the engine. "See where those two old Indian trails come together in a Y?" My untrained eyes can see only jagged, pitted arroyos and scrub brush. "Look again," he urges. Traced on a broad, bare mesa below a lonely giant lies, crudely outlined in the black gravel like an eternal guardian of the trail. At his feet appears a faint but sophisticated design of two interlocking ovals—a symbol that has been traced as far east as the lower Mississippi River Valley and as far south as Costa Rica.

The wind rises from the heated rocks of the canyon, playing havoc with the aircraft as we approach the green, serpentine form of the Colorado River in search of other giant ground figures. The landscape is stark and bewildering, as if this small flying machine were floating over a distant planet, but it is the ringing clarity, the emptiness of the air that is so stirring. A few fluted saguaros rise among the creosote and desert scrub, but few other signs of life are evident on the parched terrain below. All that is visible are hundreds of sleeping circles—ancient campsites of the San Dieguitans and Amargosans, and of the Yumans who followed them. Soon, more of the giant figures appear along the banks of the river: the mysterious Ripley Complex, the Blythe Giants, the Mystic Maze, the Shaman, the Rattlesnake, the Fort Mojave Twins, and the Black Point Dance Circle, believed to be an ancient diagram of the sun, moon, and Milky Way Galaxy.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM GARNETT

THE HORSE

Located near Yuma, about twenty feet long, this is an exceptional artistic achievement compared to most other figures. Archeologists believe it is probably one of the youngest geoglyphs, about 150 years old. The site is directly associated with east-west and north-south aboriginal trails in the area. The design is believed to have been created sometime after 1540, when expeditions of the Spanish explorers Diaz and Alcaron passed through, giving the Indians their first view of the horse. According to local Cocopah Indians, a second horse glyph once existed nearby. One was black, the other white. Both were used as ceremonial sites by the Quechan and Cocopah Indians to renew friendship bonds annually. The black horse is believed to have been destroyed by modern gravel and rock quarries in the area. (The above information comes from Boma Johnson and Cocopah informants.)

Captions are by the author.

PHOTO BY HARRY CASEY

THE FISHERMAN

Discovered by Harry Casey and Jay von Werlhof in July 1984 and named by the author, the Fisherman is the most recent geoglyph discovered in the Southwest. It is located near Parker, Arizona, and is believed to be between 500 and 1,000 years old. The Fisherman has created quite a sensation among rock art experts, according to Casey. Animated and highly stylized, it is the first geoglyph located to contain an actual water symbol. The point of its spear is made from hundreds of pieces of quartz laid closely together like a mosaic.

I am stunned at how dark the hills appear, as though an inferno had swept through the canyon charring everything.

"What makes the earth so black?" I ask Casey.

"That's the clue to the designs. It's desert varnish. If the stones have been undisturbed for thousands of years, they remain shiny and jet-black like crude oil. If you drive over them or slam on your brakes and skid, those marks will be there for thousands of years."

Although the designs, called geoglyphs by many archeologists, are best seen from the air, it takes even a keener eye to detect them from the ground. Six months after flying with Casey, I accompany archeologist Jay von Werlhof on foot through the Mojave Desert to investigate. As I follow him across an ebony carpet of stones, the silver-haired scientist stops to examine the slick black varnish on the rocks, deposited there by centuries of wind-borne pollen and sand. Suddenly, something shiny catches von Werlhof's attention. It is a mound of shattered quartz so white it dazzles the eye. Carefully, he examines one of the stones, running his finger over its smooth surface. "It's [part of] a power station," he theorizes, returning the crystal to the exact spot where it has lain for perhaps thousands of years. From conversations with Mojave and Quechan medicine men, von Werlhof has concluded that by pulverizing quartz, the shamans were releasing a special kind of "power." "It's always found at these sites," he explains.

THE DESERT GIVES UP LITTLE, LEAST OF ALL ITS secrets. That is why von Werlhof, an archeology instructor at Imperial Valley College in El Centro, California, has spent the past thirteen years stalking the Southwestern deserts for clues to the riddle of their ancient inhabitants. He is at peace here in this inferno, a region so forbidding that the Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza called it *tierra del muerto*, land of the dead. To von Werlhof, however, the spirits of the past still live in the great stone legacy scattered across the desert: rock cairns, spirit breaks (to ward off evil spirits), trail shrines, crude stone implements, and the giant ground figures we have come to see.

The morning is bright, clear, and calm. Clumps of brittlebush turn the surrounding hills saffron. In the distance, vast white dunes ripple across the desert, dissolving into the realm of the supernatural. Von Werlhof walks carefully across a rocky terrace to an ancient design called the Singer Site, northeast of El Centro. As one of the oldest and most extensive geoglyphs in the Southwest, it is at once strange and lovely. A twisting line with branches meanders across the terrace for more than a mile. Shattered quartz lies alongside the design, as do flakes of chert, agate, jasper, and basalt. Nearby, three parallel lines of rocks stretch for half a mile. Von Werlhof calls it "a place of pilgrimage, a spiritual epicenter" for the San Dieguito culture that scraped out a living here 5,000 years ago.

But what do the serpentine lines represent? A totem? An

ancient diagram? A shamanic dream-image? The possible meanings taunt the imagination. Perhaps the San Dieguitans believed that by walking the lines they absorbed the essence of whatever the drawing symbolized. Or perhaps it was the act of doing that was important, not the content. "These designs were in a constant state of becoming," von Werlhof suggests. "Every time the Indians used a site, they added something to it. If you look at the patina on the underside of the rocks, you can see that they haven't all been in the line the same length of time. Some of them have been there maybe a hundred years, and others have been there several hundred years, and others far beyond that."

So far, 275 geoglyphs have been discovered in the Southwest: figures of humans, serpents, shamans, lizards, mountain lions, as well as abstract geometric designs. They were made by scraping aside the jet-black stones and exposing a lighter soil beneath. The giant artworks range in age from 150 to 5,000 years and extend for 165 miles along the Colorado River from Needles, California, to Yuma, Arizona. Older testaments to man's presence also appear: long twisting lines of boulders set side by side in abstract patterns called rock alignments, some of which are believed to be 10,000 years old.

Today, little would be known about these curious geoglyphs had it not been for Casey, an Imperial Valley farmer, pilot, and photographer, who became intrigued with the designs after taking a course from von Werlhof. "It's absolutely addictive," Casey admits. "The more you learn, the more you want to know." Eight years ago, without sponsors or grants, he and von Werlhof set out to document every geoglyph in the Southwest. Casey began flying the barren deserts of California, Nevada, Arizona, northern Mexico, and Tiburon Island in the Gulf of California, where he located rock alignments that resemble the great Medicine Wheels of the Plains Indians. He photographed the designs by leaning out his plane window, and later by mounting his 35mm camera to the plane's step.

Von Werlhof estimates that he and Casey have documented, by land and air, more than ninety percent of the Southwestern geoglyphs. Von Werlhof plans to publish his findings in the first of three scholarly works during 1986. Yet his study of these sites is an unending task, for new designs are being discovered all the time. The most recent find came in July 1984 when Casey and von Werlhof located an unusual geoglyph in the desert near Parker, Arizona. Called the Fisherman, it depicts an animated figure dancing on water and pointing a spear at two fat fish. "It's the most sophisticated figure I've ever seen in that it contains so many elements, like fish and a sun symbol," says Casey. "It has an animated anthropomorphic figure for one thing, and he's standing on water." The Fisherman is no less awesome to von Werlhof than it is to Casey. The tip of the spear he holds is made of hundreds of pieces of quartz laid closely together like a mosaic. "That is a magical spear," von Werlhof proclaims, "a powerful, powerful piece."

PHOTO BY HARRY CASEY

THE RATTLESNAKE

To the Mojave Indians, the rattlesnake represents Ahii-quir, a sacred serpent-person endowed with great powers that can be passed on to others, either to their benefit or detriment. The design, located near Parker, Arizona, has two basalt eyes, which the Mojave claim can glow at night because of Ahii-quir's great power. The figure stretches some 180 feet and is believed to be 200 years old. Nine additional baby snakes appear faintly nearby, as do two sets of stones, which symbolize the passage of time and forward movement, according to Mojave mythology. (The above comes from Boma Johnson.)

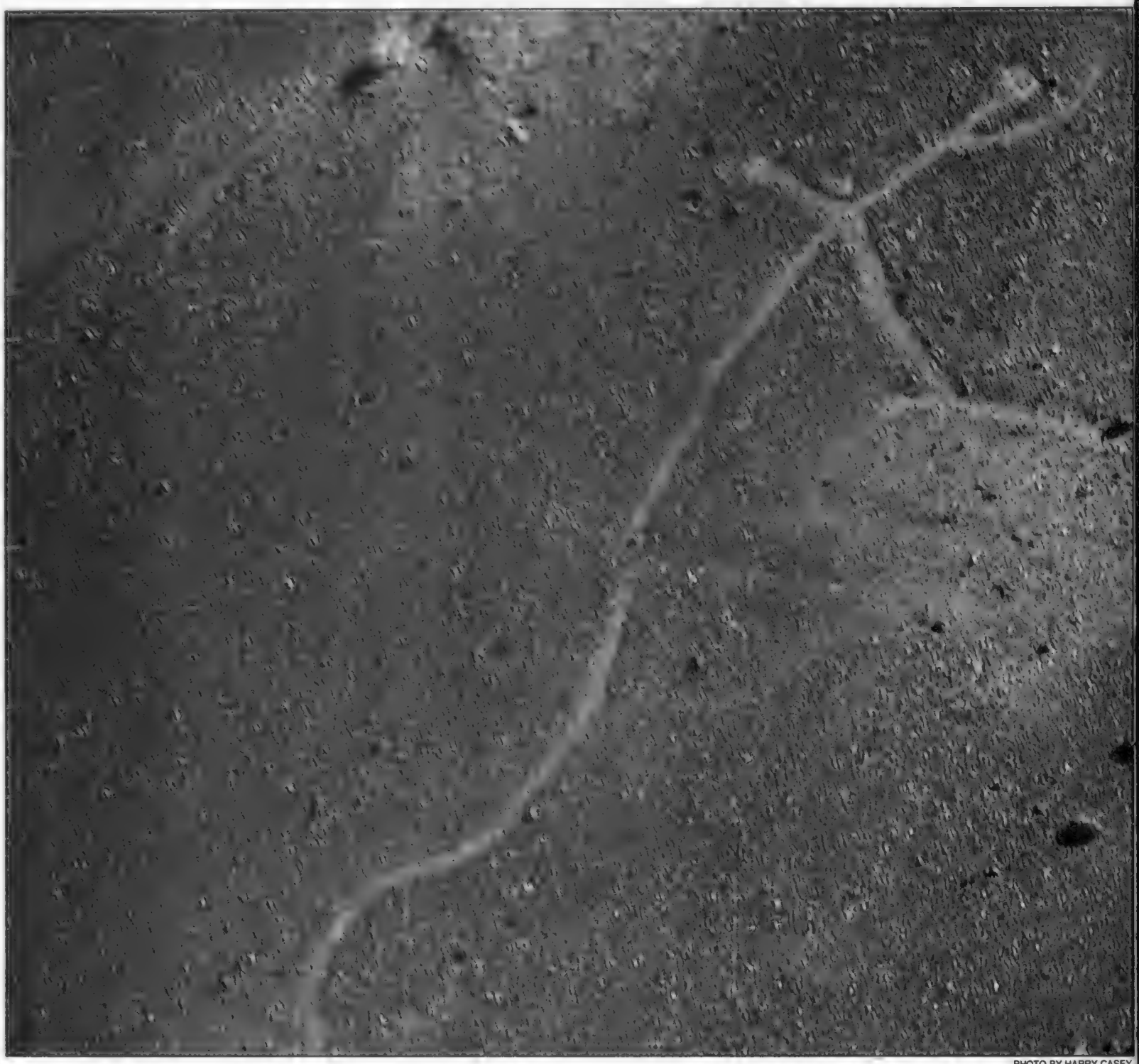


PHOTO BY HARRY CASEY

THE SINGER SITE
A mining family of the same name discovered it in 1948 and guarded it in secrecy until 1975, when they noticed ORV tracks in the immediate area and notified the Bureau of Land Management. The serpentine geoglyph meanders for one and one-fourth miles and is believed to be 5,000 years old. It is considered one of the oldest and most extensive geoglyphs in the Southwest. A nearby rock alignment consisting of three parallel lines of boulders runs for half a mile and is believed to be about 300 years old. Today, the site lies on land leased by Gold Field Mining Corporation, which together with the BLM has erected a protective fence around the design. The track marks cutting across the glyph were caused by the heavy treads of General George Patton's Army Tank Corps, which trained in the area in 1942, according to the BLM.

BLYTHE GIANTS
The evil giant is referred to in the text regarding Mojave, Quechan, and Hopi mythology. According to Mojave

PHOTO BY HARRY CASEY

legend, the animal figure represents Numeta, a mountain lion who received great power from the creator-god, Mastamho. He is placed close to the evil giant to help in destroying its power. This giant is only one of three near Blythe and is ninety-eight feet long. The spirals in and around the designs were caused by ORVs before the BLM erected protective fences. According to archeologists Johnson and von Werlhof, the Blythe Giants are believed to be between 500 and 1,000 years old.

FROM THE AIR IT IS DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE THAT ten thousand years ago, the Mojave Desert was a lush paradise fed by the swollen streams of the rapidly receding Ice Age. The Owens River roared out of the north, and Death Valley was a 100-mile-long lake brimming with trout and freshwater clams. Man, the hunter, had learned to master this bountiful wilderness, living in harmony with his gods. But as the lakes dried up and the fish died and the game animals retreated into the surrounding mountains, Stone Age man looked to his shamans to reverse the drying trend.

Scientists believe that both the geoglyphs and the much older rock alignments are expressions of the prolonged agony of a dying civilization. "As the water sources disappeared," von Werlhof explains, "the crisis these people felt had to be severe. This is the time we believe the shamans began to build the designs as an appeal to the spirits to bring back the Golden Age—the Garden of Eden they had once known."

Today, these ancient stone altars are threatened by man's careless intrusion into the fragile desert. When General George S. Patton trained his Army Tank Corps here in 1942, the heavy battle wagons rolled over at least one geoglyph, leaving behind a headless figure. In 1975, vandals lifted their motorcycles over a protective fence at a site near El Centro and rode in circles over an elaborate, abstract design. Though von Werlhof and volunteers restored the glyph from photographs, archeologists say it will never be the same. Nor will the sites that lie on the fringes of creeping subdivisions, nor those destroyed by dune buggies and other off-road-vehicles (ORVs). Numerous other sites lie in military-controlled areas of the desert. The sites are impossible to study, since most of those areas are either prohibited or restricted to personnel training and weapons testing. The "geoglyphs" that are visible in the surrounding desert are contemporary—circular target spots for aerial gunnery practice.

Scientists worry about whether the giant ground figures will survive beyond the twentieth century. Each year, they say, the figures become fainter, losing arms, legs, and other elements, partly because of natural forces but mostly because of ignorance and deliberate vandalism. Boma Johnson, an archeologist with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, is charged with monitoring the sites in the Yuma area for signs of encroachment. One of his jobs is erecting protective fences to deter motorcycles and dune buggies. It is a difficult task, and Johnson seems torn between guarding the sites and a kind of benign neglect. "As soon as we put up a fence, people wonder what's behind it," he says. "It's a double-edged sword. Once we begin the protection process, we also begin the destruction process."

A soft-spoken, contemplative man, Johnson has devoted years of study to the myths and legends of the Mojave and Quechan Indians, working closely with tribal elders to decipher the figures through oral history and legend. But his tireless efforts have revealed little. "The Indians of today are

just as mystified by the drawings as we are. The link with their ancestors was broken long ago,'' Johnson laments. Still, the tribes are aware of the spiritual essence of the sites. ''They claim that if you are in tune, you will feed the presence of the ancient ones when you go into the area. They are concerned about [outsiders] disturbing the balance.''

Clues to the origin of a few designs exist in Mojave legend, which states that for many years the Indians living near what is now Blythe, California, were plagued by an evil giant. To summon enough courage to kill the giant, the Mojave made a large effigy of the monster in the ground near the river, dancing around it for three days and nights. A slightly different version of the story exists in Yuman mythology. But Johnson believes that a few of the giant figures are more likely Hopi Fire Clan deities. According to legends recorded in Frank Waters's *Book of the Hopi* (1963), several clans migrated south from Utah to an area along the Colorado River. There, a quarrel developed between the Fire and Water clans, and the Water Clan was driven away. To prevent their rivals from returning, the Fire Clan constructed a giant effigy on the river bank.

The Blythe geoglyphs remained a secret for hundreds of years, until a pilot spotted them by chance in 1923. While flying an open-cockpit World War I biplane from Santa Monica to Albuquerque, Colonel F. G. ''Jerry'' Phillips looked down in awe from an altitude of 5,000 feet. ''I could hardly believe what I saw,'' he wrote.

> A distinct outline of a figure of a man carved out of the dark gravel rock surface. . . . This unusual work of man out here in the middle of nowhere with no sign of civilization for miles in any direction—I wondered what, who, why, when? (Quoted by John Annerino in ''Raiders of the Lost Art? Arizona's Mysterious Past,'' *Arizona Magazine,* February 13, 1983)

The designs were again reported in 1932 when a four-page article appeared in the *Air Corps News Letter,* October 18, by Second Lieutenant Minton W. Kaye. It was entitled ''Was There an Advanced Culture in the Southwest?'' Accompanying the article were two small drawings of effigies reported near Blythe. Lieutenant Kaye's and Colonel Phillips's astonishment was echoed in 1943 by General George C. Marshall who wrote:

> We were scanning the ridges sloping back from the lower Colorado River above Blythe. Then we saw them—gravel sculptures such as few men had ever laid eyes on, simple in design, childish in form, yet so grandiose in scale as to take one's breath away. (''Giant Effigies of the Southwest,'' *National Geographic,* vol. 102 (1952), no. 3)

PHOTO BY WILLIAM GARNETT

THE RIPLEY COMPLEX
By far some of the most abstract designs, they are located along the Colorado River in Arizona across from Ripley, California. The site contains at least four anthropomorphic figures, as well as a lizard, a ceremonial dance-circle, and a so-called Maltese Cross similar to the sand paintings of the Navajo.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM GARNETT

FORT MOJAVE TWINS
Probably about 500 years old, the designs are located near Bullhead City, Arizona, at the edge of a creeping subdivision. Archeologists believe they were first recorded in 1852 by the explorer Captain Lorenzo Sitgreaves while camping in the Mojave Valley. The entry in Sitgreaves's report contains the following description: "A well-worn path leads down to the river, by the side of which in several places were found traced on the ground Indian hieroglyphics, which Mr. Leroux and a Mexican of the party, who has passed many years among the Commanchee, interpretted into warnings to us to turn back, and threats against our penetrating farther into the country." According to Mojave legend, the twins represent good and evil.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AS SCIENTISTS PONDERED THE meaning of enormous ground figures on the Nazca Plain in Peru, author Erich von Daniken (*Chariots of the Gods*) suggested that the abstract designs were created as landing fields for alien spaceships. Von Werlhof, Johnson, and other archeologists dismiss such a theory as absurd. What is known about the Nazca Lines is that they were created in a terrain very similar to the Mojave Desert, and that several of the ground drawings were once used to record celestial events. Dr. Paul Kosok, the first scholar to study the markings after they were first seen from the air in the late 1920s, called them "the biggest astronomy book in the world." Eighty-one-year-old Maria Reiche, who has studied the Peruvian lines for four decades, agrees that some of the lines do indeed point to solstice positions of the sun and moon in ancient times, as well as to the rising and setting points on the horizon of some of the brighter stars. But even Reiche admits, "We will never know all the answers. And that's what a good mystery is all about."

Although few such studies have been made at the remote and scattered sites in the Southwestern deserts, at least one rock alignment along the Gila River accurately measures the summer solstice sunrise, and archeologists believe as many as ten others may also be astronomical in nature. But one site southwest of El Centro raises interesting philosophical questions about inner space, and I asked von Werlhof to take me there. The Yuha Power Rings were named by Tom Lucas, eighty-two, the last surviving member of the Kwaaymii Indian tribe of Southern California. Lucas, a medicine man, visited the site with von Werlhof in the spring of 1982. The rings, also known as dream circles, prayer circles, and vision quest rings, are formed of two concentric circles scraped into the earth. As the sun arcs across the sky, an angular piece of porphyry placed in the center casts a shadow across an inner ring of quartz. An ancient pathway leads into the design, stopping at the inner circle. Like Lucas, von Werlhof calls it "a glyph from which you can directly attain power." The outer rings, he suggests, symbolize "the sources of power that belong to all of us. The inner rings are the sources of power that belong to the universe. The center is the innate source of power itself."

The sun hangs low in the west, casting a vermillion glow over the surrounding hills. As we descend the rocky mesa leaving this ancient altar behind, my mind grapples with the immense stone-silence around us. Suddenly, my reverie is shattered by the screaming motor of a three-wheel dune bike ripping across this sacred ground. It is driven by a five-year-old boy. I wonder whether, a thousand years from now, the tracks he leaves will remain as a testament to the twentieth century.

The author wishes to express her gratitude to Jay von Werlhof, Harry Casey, and Boma Johnson for sharing their time in the field.

Carol Ann Bassett *is a Tucson free-lance writer who contributes to* The New York Times *and other national publications.*

RIDE AND TIE, HITCH AND HIKE

Western madness ahorse and afoot

by Bud Johns

CAPTAIN WILLIAM EMERY AND HIS SON CHARLES should have been there to see what they had unwittingly inspired. They would have been baffled momentarily by the scene in the mountain meadow above Park City, Utah. A hundred horses charging forward, ridden by men and women wearing brief costumes rather than sensible riding clothes. On foot, running without regard for terrain or nearby horses or distance ahead, were an equal number of humans similarly attired.

The Emerys would have soon realized that this was ride and tie, a racing version of the way they had traveled with one horse to Mexico the winter of 1873 to recover the rest of their string that rustlers had taken from Pine Valley in southern California.

"Father and I started for San Diego 'ride and tie'," Charles recalled in a 1933 newspaper interview I found while researching an article in 1959. "That is, one started riding, the other walking. The rider, after covering a suitable distance, would tie the horse and proceed on foot. The other, on reaching the horse would mount, ride past the walker and repeat the procedure. In this manner, we covered about 40 miles in a day. . . ." The Emerys recovered seven horses, and the three rustlers were shot by soldiers on orders of the Mexican governor.

What a great format for a race I thought, as I read Charles Emery's account of what had happened when he was sixteen. I planned such a race for the resort then developing in Pine Valley, but the real estate market soured, and my new sport had to wait. Eleven years passed, during which time I ran across more ride and tie references. Cowboys and Indians alike used it when they had only one horse for two persons. The animal couldn't carry both of them a long distance, and the system was far more efficient than having one person riding all the time while the other was on foot. It also prevented disputes—at least some of them—over who did which.

In his autobiography, *Life of David Crockett*, "the original humorist and irrepressible backwoodsman" described a trip

During a recent Ride and Tie contest at Park City, Utah, riders pass runners on a trail through a beautiful mountain meadow. Number 67 is Debra Pack who, with Rex Gray, won the two-woman title in this race.

COURTESY LEVI'S RIDE & TIE

1984 Levi's
67

Contestants come out of a stand of trees during the first mile and one-half of the Park City race, still bunched together. At the far side of the trail, a horse is held, waiting for a runner to arrive to become its rider.

COURTESY LEVI'S RIDE & TIE

with a companion: "I traveled on with my new comrade about three days' journey; but much to his discredit, as I then thought, and still think, he took care all the time to ride, but never to tie; at last I told him to go ahead, and I would come when I got ready."

Finally the sport got its chance. I was working for Levi Strauss & Co., then a relatively small manufacturer that wanted a sports promotion with a minimal budget. It would be nice, I thought, if we could do something that reflected the company's Western heritage. The rugged durability of the products and the firm's desire to be innovative were also factors to consider.

"I've got the sport right here," I said, or something to that effect. The first Levi's Ride & Tie was scheduled for June 5, 1971, over the Mayacamus Mountains between the Napa and Sonoma valleys.

"The race will end in historical Sonoma Plaza, where the first Bear Flag was raised proclaiming the California Republic in 1846," stated the competition announcement. "The finish line will be between Mission San Francisco Solano (founded July 4, 1823, the last of the California missions) and a 19th century barracks whose adobe wall still bears a Levi's sign painted there about 1900 when the building was used as a general store."

Sixty-six teams started. Some were weekend warriors with no concept of what alternately running and riding for twenty-five rugged miles would be like on a hot day, but many were obviously prepared. The pace from the start was impressive as Jim Larimer and Hal Hall teamed with an Arabian mare named Tabby to win. If the Emerys had been at Park City fourteen years later, they would have seen Larimer again, "The Levi's" only four-time winner (with three different partners) and a Top Ten finisher every year except one, when his horse was pulled for temporary lameness two miles from the finish while in second place.

CONCERN FOR THE ANIMALS' WELFARE HAS BEEN A distinctive part of the sport. The first year, when nobody knew exactly what to expect from this new competition, we hired veterinarians experienced in trail riding. That was before I learned there's a difference between trail and endurance riding and a lot more to come with riding and tying. I suggested the horses be checked before the event and twice during it, but was told that was unnecessarily cautious, that a look before and one during the race would be plenty. It wasn't, and two horses we hadn't protected enough died on the trail. A vet entered in the race introduced himself after the postrace awards ceremony:

> I wouldn't want to be in your shoes the next couple of weeks, but you've got to keep this race going, and I'd like to help you protect the horses. I've been a vet for twenty years, and I've been an endurance rider even longer, but I never before understood my relationship with a horse the way I did today. This race is wonderful and has to be continued.

Dr. Jim Steere's estimate of two weeks' furor over the horses was a masterpiece of understatement, but the procedures he initiated as chief vet—from which he has taken a "sabbatical" three times in order to compete—have resolved the humane question as ride and tie's major race has become larger, faster, and more difficult.

During the first years there was just the one race, held annually in a different demanding location, but soon there were others. Many races started as training events for the big one, initially most of them in the West. There are more than 350 a year now, throughout the United States and abroad, but I still remember the excitement of being invited in 1978 to help the British Arab Horse Society plan its first annual R&T.

England had special meaning. Just after I announced my first race, a friend of my wife's produced a passage from Henry Fielding's *The History of Joseph Andrews*, first published in 1742, describing a ride and tie journey. Later I learned that Dr. Samuel Johnson first traveled to London in March of 1737 with his student David Garrick, riding and tying the 120 miles because they had only enough money to hire one horse and stay one night at an inn.

Of course the pace and terrain for those journeys were somewhat different from our R&T, which has been described as "a race for masochists." I've always preferred the analysis by Walt Schaefer, college professor who once ran on a world-record relay team, and whose best ride and tie finish was second in 1978. He described his experience in 1976: "The race is a living drama, with the rewards and disappointments of

life. The first four miles of Ride & Tie were the most exciting thing I have ever done, the next thirty-odd were the toughest and the last mile the most rewarding.''

Although the terrain in the English ride and tie races, like that for those journeys centuries ago, isn't so rugged as in events in the western U.S. and English riders are required to wear hard hats for safety, the most noticeable difference to me is that the veterinary surgeons wear suits, shirts, and neckties. Anyone who has seen the casual attire of the veterinarians at races here will understand the contrast.

I'll never forget an incident that occurred at the first English R&T, held on the Earl of Bathurst's forest preserve at Cirencester in the Cotswolds. I'd checked progress on the trail's first loop, passing a herd of deer and the ruins of a fifteenth century building, and at one point noting the Cirencester Cathedral in the distance.

''There's a gentleman over there who would like to see you when you can spare a minute,'' my wife said when I reached the vet check. Obviously enjoying the occasion she offered me the silver goblet she was holding. ''Would you like a sip?'' It was champagne, excellent champagne. I went over to the man she'd pointed out. Very much the country gentleman in a tweed suit, he had an array of goblets and loving cups in which he was dispensing the bubbly.

AH, SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US,'' HE GREETED ME. ''This is a wonderful occasion, and I think wonderful occasions call for fine champagne. And I always think fine champagne tastes better from silver, don't you agree?'' I nodded, thinking of how often during the heat and tension of the big race I'd been grateful when someone offered me a sip of their not-necessarily-cold beer.

Champagne plays a somewhat different role at the German races, as I learned two years later when I attended their inaugural event and following the local horsemen's custom, drank champagne from the winning horse's water bucket.

That first German race and the first two Engish races were won by experienced teams from the U.S., using horses generously supplied locally. A trip to Europe to compete in one or more of the races there continues to be a coveted vacation for ride and tiers, but the competition has improved to the point that no visiting team has won since then.

Sally Edwards, twice winner of ''The Levi's'' two-woman title and a noted ultra-marathoner, didn't expect to be competitive when she performed in the third annual German championship the day after flying to Europe for the international triathlon championship in Nice. This R&T was only twenty kilometers, hardly enough to break a sweat for the woman who has won the Western States 100-mile footrace in the Sierra. Teamed with a German woman who had come to the U.S. earlier in the year to ride and tie, Sally finished sixth behind two men who had recently competed in Germany's first triathlon. They had a better horse and had obviously extended themselves fully. One of them took particular note, while trying to catch his breath, of how difficult the hills had been.

''It's such beautiful country around here,'' Sally said as she graciously accepted their appreciation for her presence at their race. Showing no signs of exertion from the workout, she continued: ''I really enjoyed the race. The only thing you could use would be a few hills.''

That was 1983 when the first annual Swiss ''Original'' Ride & Tie, the third annual German and the fifth annual English R&Ts were on successive weekends. The Swiss race was so named because they'd first heard of the sport through a magazine article that lost something in the translation, and they had staged an event that had single competitors running and riding alternate loops.

Then Dr. Georg Riedler, a Swiss who is president of ELDRIC (European Long Distance Rides Conference), participated in the 1982 German R&T and was captivated by what he called ''right way ride and tie.'' The 1983 ''right way'' Swiss race was held near the Riedler home outside Lucerne. During the local version of a postrace barbecue Georg told me, as I studied the Swiss cowbell display and listened to two young men playing alp horns, that he would be coming to Park City to compete the next summer.

Ride and tie's shotgun start—likened to a cavalry charge followed by the infantry or the Oklahoma land rush revisited—is both exciting and scary, and it occasionally has other elements. In 1983 Jon Root leaned down from his horse and asked Robyn Dubach, ''Will you marry me?'' She looked up, answered, ''Yes,'' and the starter said, ''Go''. Forty miles later they had finished fourth overall among 198 teams and had successfully defended their man-woman title.

Jon and Robyn were in that Park City race I fantasied the Emerys as viewing. So was Jim Larimer, teamed with Jim Howard who six days apart in 1980 had won this race and the 100-mile Western States footrace between Squaw Valley and Auburn. Other pre-race favorites included Chuck Stalley and Butch Alexander, the only team to have won the race three times. Larimer, Stalley, and Mary Tiscornia are the only ride and tiers who have competed every year. A six-time winner of the race's two-woman competition and twice a Top Ten finisher, Mary shows both how well women have done and why a *Sports Illustrated* writer asked me one year, ''Don't any **un**attractive women do this race?''

PARK CITY'S TRAIL WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT YET—thirty-eight miles climbing three times to 9,400 feet and dipping as low as 6,600 for a total elevation change of 14,000 feet, nearly three miles. ''Someone told me there weren't any level spots,'' one contestant remarked. ''That's not so. There are two. One's a hundred yards long, and the other's a hundred feet.'' Another entrant overheard him and took exception. ''If you found two level stretches like that you must have gotten off the trail.''

Nobody questioned that Con and Tod Wadsworth, from nearby Draper, Utah, were favored: seeking an unprecedented third consecutive win, they were at home in the thin mountain air; their gray Arab gelding Jet had been their winning mount in 1982; and their father—a strong enough competitor to have won a Colorado R&T with Tod earlier in the summer and to have been eighth in an earlier Levi's—had withdrawn his entry in order to direct the WadSquad effort.

Enjoying their victory, Bev Gray hugs trusty Uinta while Debra Pack kisses their sponsor after they won the two-woman championship in the 1984 Ride and Tie at Park City, Utah.

COURTESY LEVI'S RIDE & TIE

WHEN YOU GO

Below are listed some of the Ride & Tie races scheduled for 1986. Use the telephone numbers for details.

Mar. 8–Old Pueblo Ride & Tie, Tucson, AZ (602) 296-0146
May 10–Clifton Horse Society R&T, Clifton, VA (703) 250-9063
May 11–Prineville R&T, Prineville, OR (503) 923-5565
May 11–Brown's R&T, San Jose, CA (408) 268-4980
May 17–Castle Rock R&T, Davenport, CA (408) 423-4156
May 24–Graveyard R&T, Powell Butte, OR (503) 548-6424
May 31–Quicksilver R&T, New Almaden, CA (408) 268-7535
Jun. 22–16th annual Levi's R&T, Davenport, CA. Call Paul Danielson in San Francisco (415) 544-6000
Jul. 12–Park City R&T, Park City, UT (801) 649-1555
Nov. 1–Cuyamaca R&T, Julian, CA (619) 726-4566

Ride & Tie races in Switzerland, Germany, and England are scheduled for the end of August or the first part of September in 1986.

It soon became clear that the battle belonged to the Wadsworths. Butch Alexander was thrown from his horse four miles after the start. Looking as though the entire field had ridden over him, he was just behind the leaders when he ran through medics who tried to examine him at the first vet check, sixteen and one-half miles into the race. The strain was too much, however, and he and Chuck faded to finish out of the Top Ten for the first time.

Jon and Robyn's equine teammate was having an off day; so, their dream of celebrating their first wedding anniversary the next day as the first man-woman team to win the overall title had to be put aside. They did defend their co-ed title and finished fifth overall.

The trail's final loop was 9.2 miles, and for the first 7 it was the Wadsworths riding and tying, and Howard—"he's unbelievable" one of the brothers said afterwards—running and hoping that Larimer would catch up with their tiring horse. He didn't, and the WadSquad pulled into the lead 2 miles from the finish. Howard crossed just 2 minutes behind them but had to watch two other teams complete before Larimer arrived to cinch fourth place.

The Wadsworths had taken just 3 hours 49 minutes 55 seconds, a pace averaging 6-minute miles, to cover approximately the same distance on more difficult terrain than the Emerys had traveled ride and tie in a day. The brothers made at least forty exchanges in following "short tie" strategy of the race as a series of sprints rather than a plodding endurance run.

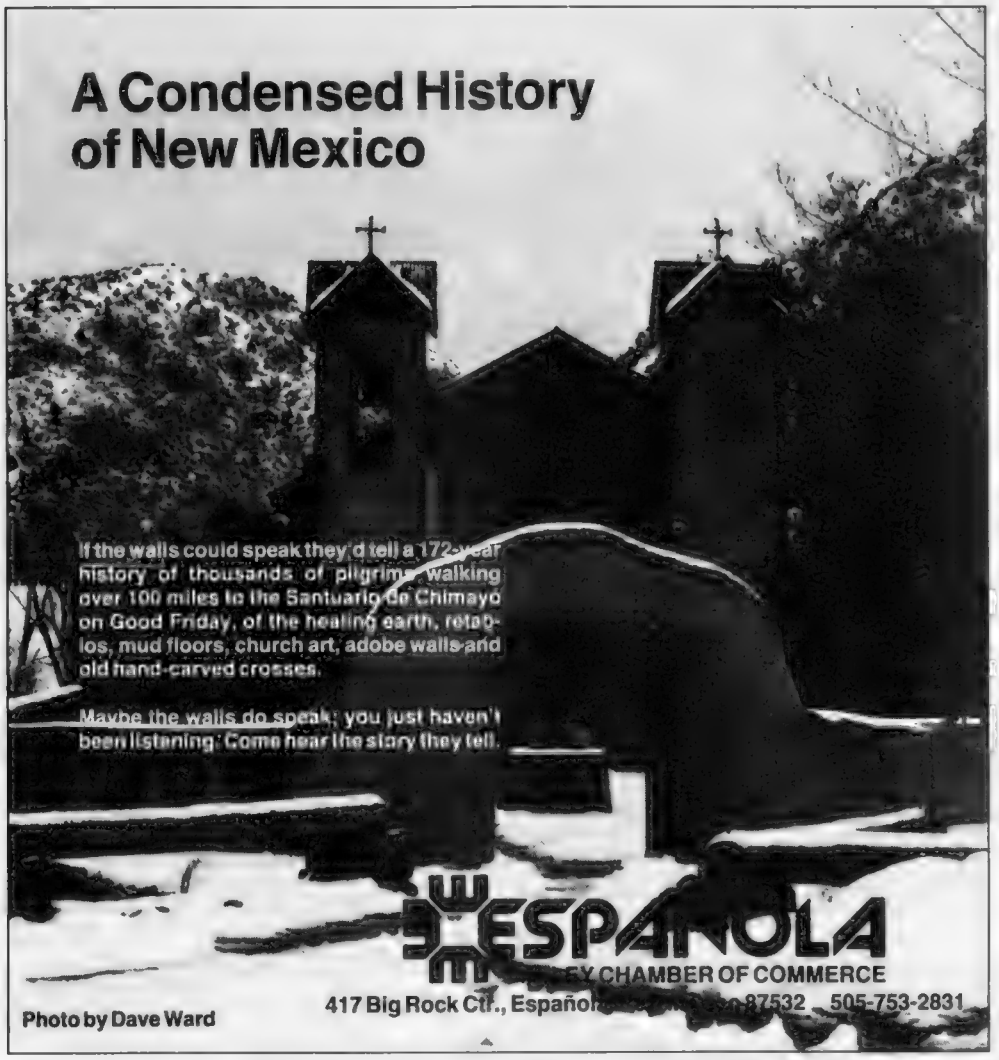
The winners were in, but much action continued on the trail, ending with John Barnes and Paul Broneer battling to finish within the 8-hour limit. They made it with 3 minutes to spare. Few who applauded their effort realized that Barnes was twice the national intercollegiate half-mile champion. Although he was in contention for a medal until elbowed off the final turn in the 800-meters run at the 1956 Olympics, he maintains that "competing at ride and tie is more exciting than being in the Olympics."

"It is a contest that is truly the most challenging in the world," Barnes said after the Park City experience. Now a coach, he has competed in perhaps a dozen ride and ties, never finishing among the leaders but once earning notoriety by joining contestants who have run past their tied horse. Just one of the former Olympians and world-class athletes attracted to the sport, he equates it with the challenges of the West's early days:

> Strong men, strong women, and strong horses advanced this country. Regardless of high technology and modern inventions, the horse will always have a place in this country's heart and soul. The Ride & Tie has brought history into the present. Success in this sport is also based on strong men, strong women, and strong horses. Plus, it takes place in such beautiful and historic spots.

Bud Johns *took early retirement from Levi Strauss & Co., where he was vice-president for corporate communications, to concentrate on a writing career begun on a Michigan newspaper as a teenager more than forty years ago. Mr. Johns's book* What Is This Madness? *tells of the invention and development of ride and tie (Synergistic Press, San Francisco, 1985).*

A Condensed History of New Mexico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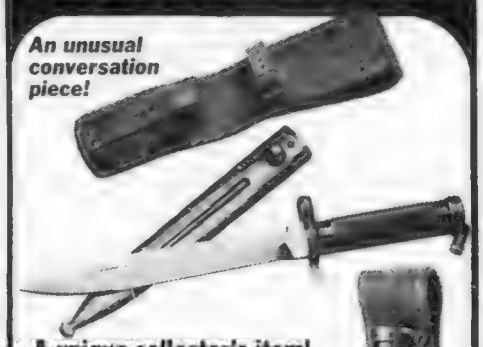

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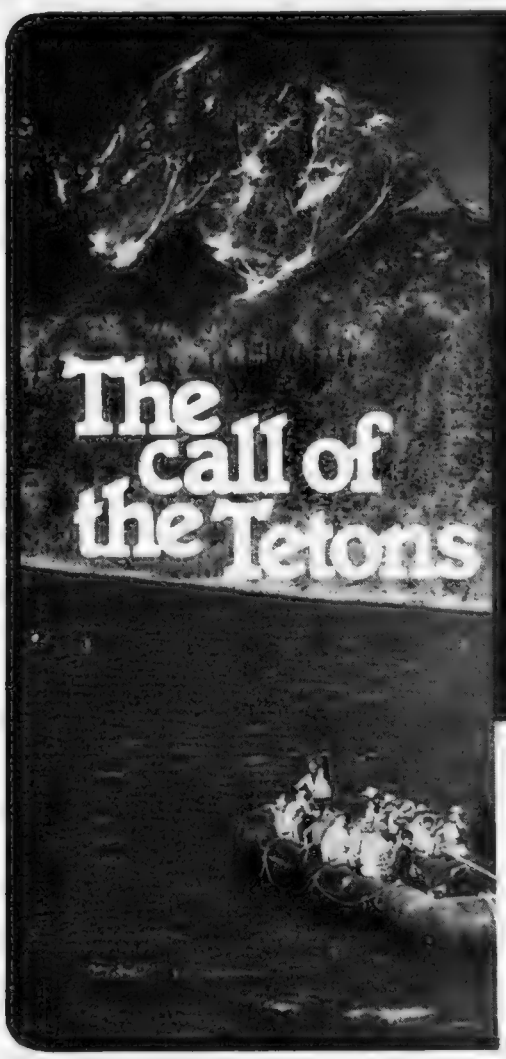

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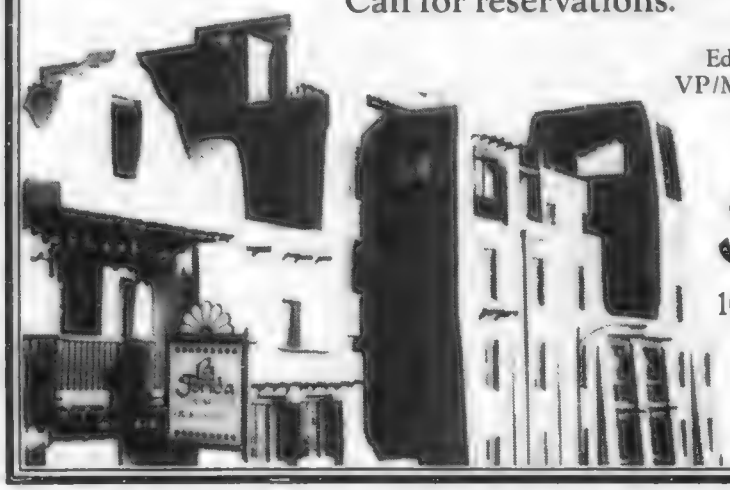

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WELLS FARGO MESSENGER

BY GOD AND WELLS FARGO!

Expressmen braved Alaskan wilds to deliver their cargo

by W. Turrentine Jackson

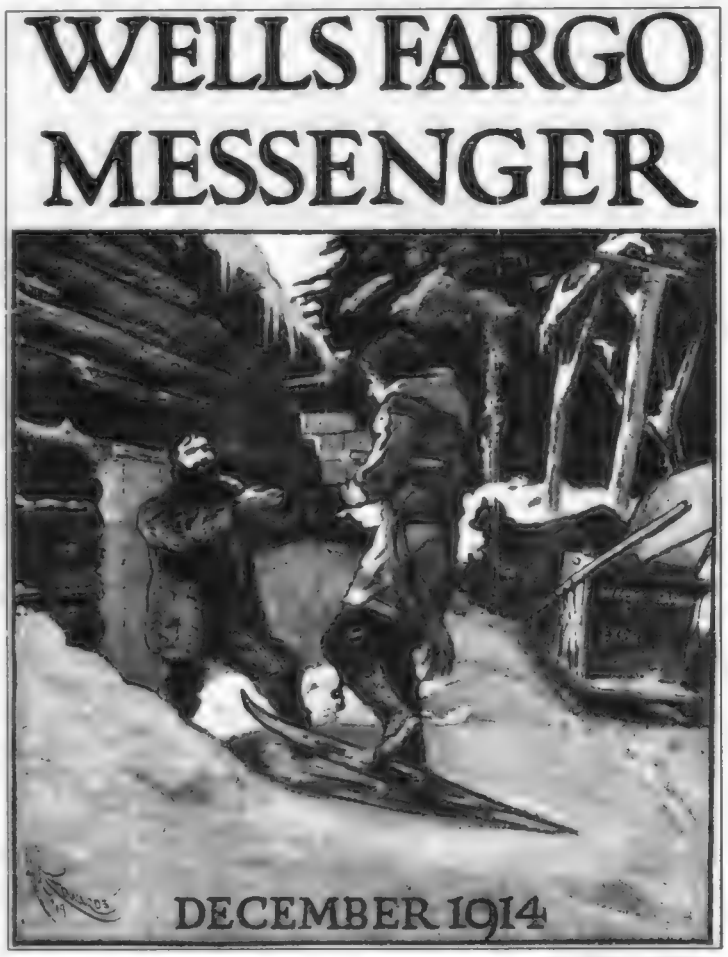
IN A FROZEN VALLEY IN WESTERN ALASKA BETWEEN THE Kuskokwim Mountains and the Yukon River, two noted mushers set out on December 14, 1911, to deliver a treasure to the outside world. Wells Fargo veterans Bob Griffith and U. G. Norton urged their dog teams out of the Iditarod area on the first lap of their journey to the port of Seward, their Yukon sleds carrying gold worth over half a million dollars, final destination Seattle, Washington. Iditarod was then enjoying the latest gold strike of the far North, and this historic dog-team effort delivered the first winter shipment that Wells, Fargo & Co. Express brought out of the Alaskan interior.

This rigorous trip of around 500 miles offered many difficulties. The two dog-team expresses had to endure not only subzero cold but snowstorms and strong winds as they pushed through rugged mountains and across frozen streams. They took the shortest way to the coast, to Seward on the Kenai Peninsula, but records fail to show their exact route. The best conjecture is that Griffith led his party along a trail very close to the eastern leg of today's annual Iditarod Trail Race. [See map.] Not until February 6, 1912, did they reach the Company office in Seward. True to a solid reputation for efficiency, the Wells Fargo people immediately loaded the shipment on the steamer *Alameda*, of the Alaska Steamship Company, and the rich cargo was in a Seattle bank five days later. Impatient to return to their home base, intrepid mushers Griffith and Norton rested only two days in Seward before starting on the return journey.

From its beginnings Wells, Fargo & Co. was associated with the excitement and romance of gold strikes and with

On Wells Fargo's third winter shipment out of Alaska, veteran musher Bob Griffith and two companions set out from Iditarod for Tanana in December of 1913. Griffith's lead team of twelve dogs, and the two teams following, sped Iditarod gold on its way to world coffers. At that time, dog teams provided the only transportation for interior sections of Alaska.

The monthly trade journal Messenger *carried news of Wells Fargo people to all parts of the company's empire. In the early years of this century, adventurous tales from Alaska added to the romance of Wells Fargo's reputation and helped to enhance company pride and loyalty. In the two cover drawings reproduced from the* Messenger, *Alaska mushers and their faithful sled dogs are sentimental examples of "keeping the line open." The appreciation of people living in isolated cabins is shown by the smiling man receiving his Christmas packages.*



WELLS FARGO MESSENGER

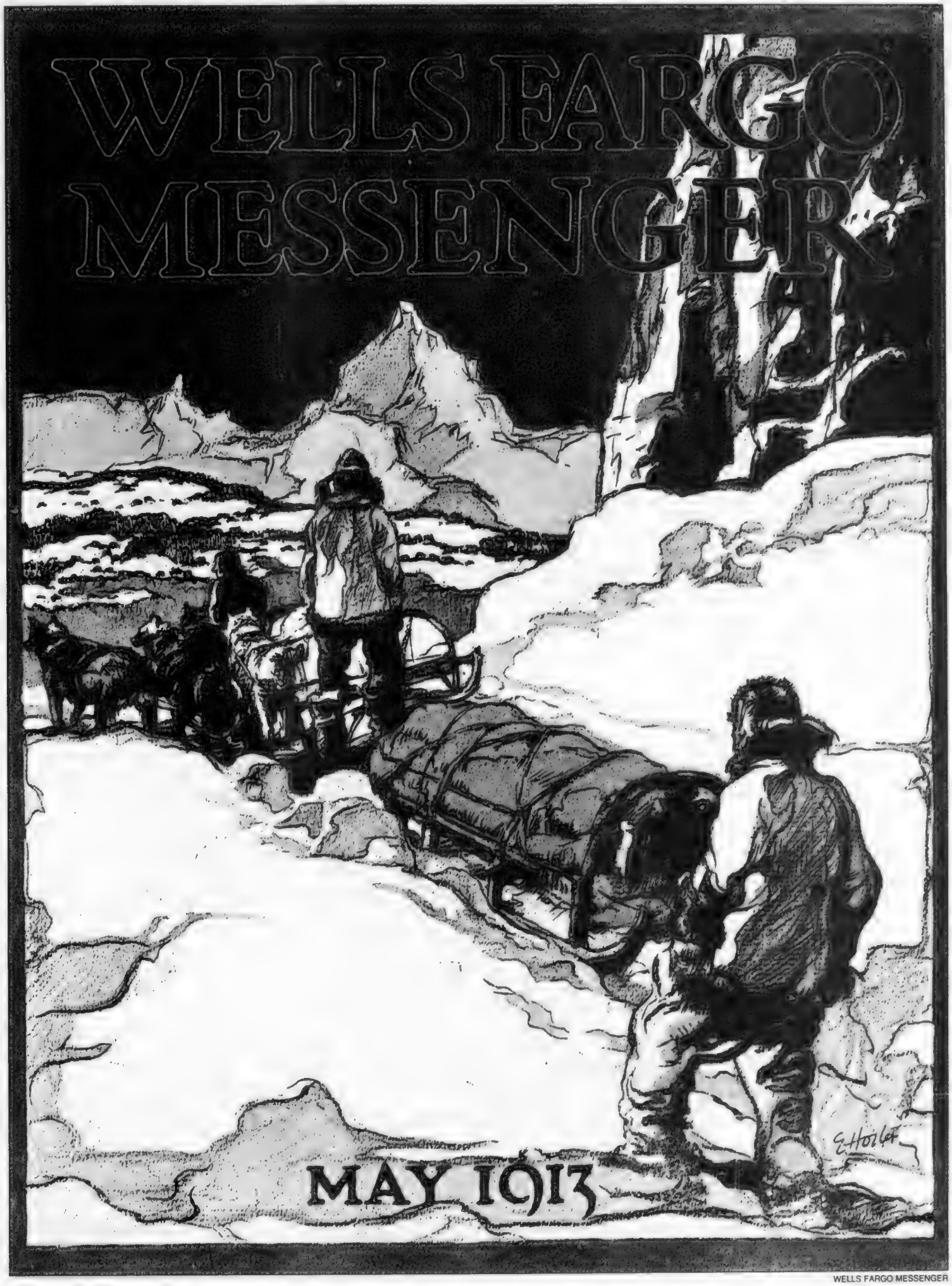
Argonauts' dreams of great and sudden riches. But New Yorkers Henry Wells and William Fargo, each experienced in the express business in the East, pursued their fortunes not in the gold fields but in services that catered to miners and merchants. To take advantage of the frenzied activity in California following the discovery of yellow metal at Sutter's Mill in 1848, Wells and Fargo organized their banking and express company in 1852. It carried shining treasure to the bank, delivered supplies and money to isolated settlements, and transferred funds to the eastern United States and Europe. By building a reputation for reliability and honesty, by expanding, and by absorbing competing lines, Wells, Fargo & Co. soon became the prime mail, express, and passenger stage company west of the Mississippi River. The story goes that miners became so impressed with Wells Fargo's dependability that they sometimes swore "by God and Wells Fargo."

From the time that Alaska became an American possession in 1867, Wells, Fargo & Co. was interested in expanding its express business into that area. In 1870 the United States government provided for mail service once a month by steamer to Sitka in Alaska's panhandle, via San Juan Island and Fort Wrangell. But the remainder of the region suffered erratic service, dependent upon the occasional steamer that might visit a nearby port. Seeing a need for their services, Wells, Fargo & Co. entered Alaska in the early 1880s through steamer service from San Francisco. They opened offices in the panhandle at Sitka, Wrangell, and Harrisburg (Juneau) and advertised that they delivered "letters, money, valuables, packages, parcels, and merchandise." However, the Company suspended its Alaska service in 1885 and did not resume it for over a quarter of a century.

In the meantime, great strikes brought thousands of eager gold rushers streaming into the North. Discovery of gold in 1896 in Canada's Klondike region attracted hopefuls from around the world, especially from the United States. A pell-mell rush of would-be miners headed north after a ship steamed into Seattle in July of 1897, carrying $1,000,000 worth of Klondike gold. A find on Anvil Creek near Nome on the western coast of Alaska in 1898 initiated a new rush, not only by steamship from ports in the U.S. Northwest but also from the Klondike, as disappointed gold seekers traveled down the Yukon River to a new El Dorado on the Bering Sea. Travelers embarking from Seattle in 1899 passed boxes of Alaska gold stacked on the wharves as high as six feet. At one time, the Seattle wharves supported boxes of gold worth $3,000,000 after the steamer *Roanoke* unloaded its cargo. About $40 million worth of Alaska gold, when it was $20.67 an ounce, passed through the Seattle assay office between 1898 and 1900.

DURING THIS PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT IN ALASKA, Wells, Fargo & Co. adopted a wait-and-see attitude. Meanwhile, the Alaska Pacific Express Company, organized in 1897, was the pioneering express enterprise in that vast domain. Initially this company sent express by dog teams from Skagway to Dawson City in the Klondike, delivering letters, money, and merchandise. When the White Pass and Yukon Railroad reached Whitehorse in midsummer of 1900, delivery was by railroad to that point, where passengers and freight were transferred to steamboats on the Yukon in route to the capital of the Klondike. In March 1900, the company announced that it would handle express business to Nome as soon as the summer season opened. Each summer this company's network of offices expanded to reach the remotest settlements with vehicles drawn by dog teams, horses, or reindeer. On the most northerly Alaskan post route, the 650 miles from Kotzebue to Point Barrow, reindeer were the best for pulling sleds because their broad hooves enabled them to walk on top of the snow, instead of breaking through the crust and bogging down.

In March of 1911, Wells, Fargo & Co. announced that they would begin express operations in Alaska almost immediately. They had arranged to operate over the routes of the Alaska



WELLS FARGO MESSENGER

Millions in Gold from the Iditarod! With this exuberant, prophetic title, the Wells Fargo Messenger ***presented this historic photograph of the intrepid mushers and their dog teams that brought the first winter shipment out of Iditarod. On February 6, 1912 (after fifty-five days on the trail), Bob Griffith and U. G. Norton halted their teams in front of the Wells Fargo office in the port of Seward, posing with several colleagues for the photograph.*** (Below) ***In the summer months freight could be carried between Fairbanks and the railroad at Chitina in a horse-drawn wagon.***

Steamship Company, the Copper River & Northwestern Railroad (from Cordova to Chitina), the Orr Stage Company (which connected with the railway for Fairbanks), and the Northern Navigation Company (which operated boats on the Yukon River). The Company had contracted with other transportation lines as well, thus gaining "access to every portion of Alaska." After absorbing the Alaska Pacific Express Company, the Wells Fargo Express had added a total of 15,000 miles to its express routes. It now operated over numerous steamship lines to ports along the southern, western, and northern coasts of Alaska; in the interior, it used every means available to offer the best service for the season, from railways and river boats to sleds pulled by dogs, horses, or reindeer.

The Wells Fargo official primarily responsible for the absorption of the Alaska Pacific Express and the acquisition of all that company's lines was William Sproule, president. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s move into Alaska was the climax of his long career in the transportation field. For many years, he had worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad, rising through the ranks to the post of general traffic manager. After service with American Smelting and Refining Company, Sproule came to Wells Fargo as its president in November of 1910.

Supervising Wells Fargo's operations in Alaska was James W. Hill, who had also joined the Company only recently. Hill had gained experience in Alaska's transportation problems from his work with the Alaska Commercial Company. In their employ, he made his first trip to the Far North in midwinter of 1900–1901, receiving firsthand knowledge of the rigors and dangers of travel in that land.

Hill's party left St. Michael on the western coast to travel by dog team across the breadth of Alaska to Dawson in the Canadian Klondike, guided by the frozen waters of the great Yukon River. They had two dog teams of six Eskimo dogs each, pulling sleds that carried their food supply, dog feed, fur robes, a tent, and a stove. Starting out toward Unalakleet, the party traveled along the ice on the shoreline of frozen Norton Sound during the shortest days of the year that afforded only a few hours of daylight. On the third day of travel, they reached Gonsolvia where the moving ice carried the entire party—men, dogs, sleds, supplies—away from their intended route. They were forced to retrace their steps over the ice to find a spot to land on solid ground. The party reached Unalakleet late on New Year's eve in a blinding blizzard that took many lives. Hill remembered that he and his companions crouched behind the sleds, depending on the dogs to scent out the trail, invisible to the human eye, until they reached shelter.

THE ANCHORAGE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART

Ascending along a stream to the northeast by cutting a trail on snowshoes all the way, Hill and his companions crossed the Kaltag Portage to the Yukon River, a distance of ninety miles. An Indian guide who had been hired for this portion of the journey collapsed and had to be transported into camp on one of the sleds. Seven days later at Nulato on the Yukon, the party purchased two dogs to replace those that were exhausted. The temperature dropped to over sixty degrees below zero, and the group took refuge in an Indian dwelling where twenty-three human beings stayed under one roof for four and one-half days.

At one point along the way, a wrong decision by Hill brought a brush with lonely death. After a lunch break at a mail cabin, Hill trudged out on the trail some time before the dog

WELLS FARGO MESSENGER

teams and his companions left, in order to get a head start on the twenty-mile journey to the next habitation. Coming to a fork in the snowy trail, he followed the path that he thought was obviously the main one. After several hours on this tack, Hill realized that he was lost and that he was in serious difficulty. Darkness was closing in, the temperature was around forty-five degrees below zero, and he had no means of keeping warm during the night. As Hill stumbled along the worsening trail in the dark, he could hear "wolves howling in the timber." Then, the welcome sound of a dog's bark cut through the night air, and Hill followed the sound to the tent of two prospectors. Their hospitality afforded him safety for the night, and he was reunited with his companions the next day.

FOLLOWING THE HIGHWAY OF THE GREAT YUKON, these pioneers stopped at seven established stations on the 1,250 mile route to Dawson. They covered this distance in forty-three traveling days, an average of almost thirty miles a day. Only five of the twelve original dogs survived to reach Dawson. For his return journey to the "outside," Hill traveled by horse-stage to Whitehorse and there took the recently completed White Pass and Yukon Railroad to Skagway.

Within a few months after Wells, Fargo & Co. began business in Alaska during the spring of 1911, the Company had thirty-two agencies operating in Alaska and four in the Yukon. When warmer weather permitted navigation, the company served thirty-one stations along the Yukon River alone. Special attention was given to the delivery of gold shipments by the purchase of specially designed large steel safes. Gold was shipped from Dawson to Vancouver, British Columbia, or to Seattle for $1.00 per one thousand dollars' worth; to San Francisco for $1.50. Wells Fargo also transported products of Alaska's forests, seas, and animals to world markets. Natives in various types of boats brought walrus ivory, furs, skins, and other hunting trophies to the Company's central shipping points along the coast. Seafaring men sailed their schooners through the Bering Strait to Point Barrow in the summer to collect hides of the polar bear and walrus and other articles acquired by trade with the native people. On occasion, Wells Fargo carried a cargo of rare and beautiful Arctic furs worth half a million dollars.

The greatest challenge in Alaska was maintaining service during the severe winter cold. As we have noted, the Company's first winter shipment of 1911 from Iditarod for transfer to a steamer at Seward encountered many difficulties on the trail and required fifty-five days. Consequently, beginning in 1912, Wells Fargo used a longer but less difficult route to take shipments from that part of the interior to the coast: by dog team to Tanana, by horse-drawn sled to Fairbanks and Chitina, and thence by the Copper River & Northwestern Railroad to Cordova on the Gulf of Alaska. The journey to the railroad, 902 miles away, required only twenty-four days.

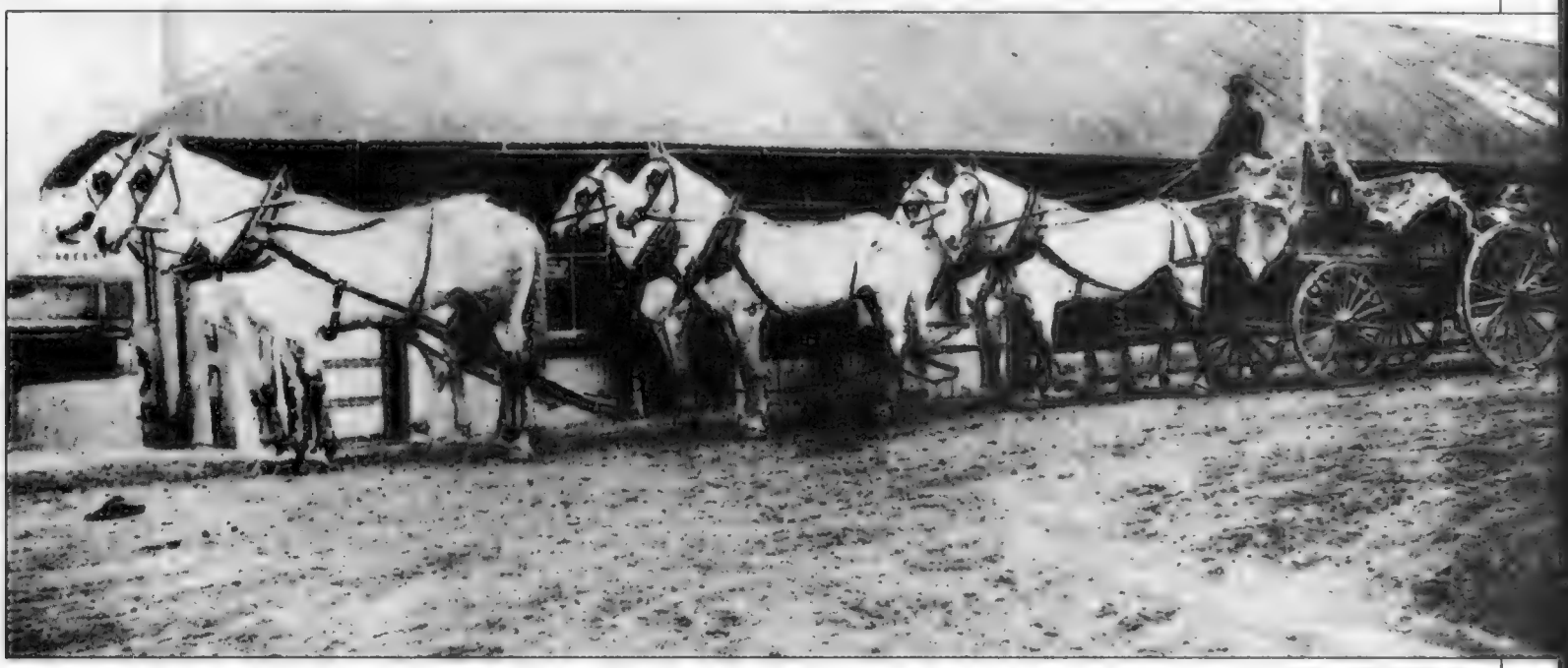
The report by the Wells Fargo agent at Iditarod regarding the third winter shipment gives a good account of the conditions along the selected route. On December 1, 1913, the shipment, weighing approximately a ton, was loaded on three sleds with three drivers and thirty-two dogs headed for Tanana, 428 trail-miles away, with a final destination of Seattle or San Francisco. In charge of the shipment was the noted musher

Bob Griffith, who had led the first winter shipment in 1911 to the coast at Seward. Griffith was a veteran employee of Wells Fargo, having driven a stagecoach for the Company in the mid-1870s when gold in the Black Hills brought a rush to Dakota Territory. He was among the early stampeders to Alaska where in 1898 he resumed his old calling and took the first mail from Unalakleet over Norton Sound to Nome. Since that time he had been carrying mail almost continuously over various routes, and according to the Iditarod agent, Griffith was certainly the veteran dog musher in the North. Griffith's fellow mushers on this 1913 winter shipment were Jim Haley and Raymond Bond, both old-timers in Alaska and experienced in handling dog teams.

Sleds used for this trip were of the "basket" type, made of hickory, twelve to fourteen feet long, and twenty-two to twenty-four inches wide, best for large loads by dog team. In addition to the express, the sleds carried extra harness, rope, snowshoes, and salmon and tallow for the dogs. With the thermometer reading about thirty degrees below zero, Griffith set out on the first sled with twelve dogs; Haley followed with eleven dogs pulling the second sled, and Bond brought up the third sled with nine dogs. Griffith's leading sled was equipped with skis for easier negotiation of drifted parts of the trail.

Diskaket, 100 miles away on the Innoko River, was the first destination of the three-team party—then, on to Kaltag on the Yukon, 69 miles further along. During the trip from Iditarod to Kaltag, the party was without telegraphic communication, as the government telegraph line ran along the Yukon River. (Iditarod was connected with the telegraph line by wireless only.) But after Kaltag, the trail was never more than a few miles from the government line. The journey from Iditarod to Kaltag required a week, as the trail was drifted and rough.

FROM KALTAG TO TANANA THE TRAIL WAS ALONG THE frozen Yukon most of the way, relatively easy to negotiate because it was well traveled. Griffith and his companions reached Tanana in an additional week, having passed Nulato in 40 miles, Ruby in an additional 99



WELLS FARGO MESSENGER

The Edward S. Orr Stage Company carried Wells Fargo express and passengers from Tanana to Fairbanks and on south to Chitina. In the summer of 1912 this Orr stagecoach stood in front of the Wells Fargo office at Fairbanks, ready to take on passengers.

miles, and a final stretch into Tanana of 120 miles.

At Tanana the mushers and dog teams yielded up their load to the Wells Fargo agent who directed its transfer to a two-horse sled operated by the Ed. S. Orr Stage Company. The Orr Company was under contract to provide Wells Fargo with biweekly express and passenger service between Tanana and Fairbanks. After covering 164 miles to the southeast, the Iditarod shipment was in Fairbanks four days later.

From Fairbanks to Chitina, there was a good road built at government expense. On this portion of the journey, the Orr Company used four-horse bobsleds to provide thrice-weekly service to the terminus of the Copper River & Northwestern Railroad at Chitina. Six or seven days were usually required from Fairbanks to Chitina, although the 310 miles could be covered in four days by running night and day and changing horses at relay stations approximately twenty miles apart. The most difficult job was going over the summit between the Rapids and Paxson's where it was necessary to transfer passengers and express to six "double-enders," each pulled by one horse for the fifty-seven mile climb. At Chitina the Iditarod shipment was placed on the railroad to Cordova where it was transferred to an Alaska Steamship Company vessel for Seattle.

An experience of Griffith's in 1915 offered an interesting illustration of some of the differences between carrying express in Alaska and the rest of the Wells Fargo domain at that time. As told by an Alaskan correspondent, Griffith and Haley were again on the winter trail out of Iditarod carrying a load of gold valued at $1,000,000. One afternoon, one of their sleds broke loose on a steep grade and catapulted against the side of a cabin, spilling a box of gold bars worth $160,000 in the snow. As it was already quite dark, Griffith decided to have a good night's sleep at a nearby roadhouse and return in the morning to gather up the gold bars, especially since the gold was "as safe there in the snow as if it were in the United States Sub-Treasury." The correspondent continued:

IDITAROD TRAIL SLED DOG RACE

Pioneering exploits of brave mushers and steadfast sled dogs were the inspiration for Alaska's current annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race from Anchorage to Nome. [See map.] Scheduled to begin the first Saturday each March, the race follows the 1,200 mile Trail over the Alaska Range and the Kuskokwim Mountains, winds through dense forests and wide expanses of snow-covered tundra, and glides over frozen rivers and the pack ice of Norton Sound.

The Iditarod Trail was first blazed in 1910 by a dog team carrying mail from Knik to Nome. And Wells Fargo musher Bob Griffith probably followed close to the eastern leg of the Trail when he led dog teams out of Iditarod in 1911. In 1925 American newspapers carried dramatic accounts of mushers' relaying diptheria-serum over the Trail to Nome, which was threatened by an epidemic.

The "last great race on earth" began in 1973, and in 1976 the Trail was designated a National Historic Trail. In odd years the race takes an alternate course, veering south to go through the ghost town of Iditarod. In an exciting finish in 1985, a woman won the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race for the first time. Displaying audacious courage, Libby Riddles left all the fellows waiting out a storm, and headed her dogs into a blizzard to get a headstart and victory in eighteen days. Praising her dogs as "a darn good bunch," Riddles accepted the first prize of $50,000 and a lei for her lead dog.

THE ANCHORAGE MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART

In 1910 the Alaska Pacific Express Company had an office in Valdez on the first floor of the building at the right. Beginning operations in Alaska in 1897, the company expanded its services to many parts of the region until Wells, Fargo & Co. absorbed it and acquired all of its lines.

> Possibly twenty men knew of the incident, but even had there been a thief in the neighborhood to attempt larceny he would have had to choose between two possible courses in making his get away—either to the trail with inevitable arrest the following day, or to the mountains with inevitable death from exposure that night.

Sweeping changes occurred in the transporation network and express service in Alaska during the years of World War I. On March 14, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Alaska railroad bill providing for construction of a railroad to connect one or more of the open Pacific Ocean harbors on the southern coast with the navigable waters of interior Alaska. In the spring of 1915, the Alaska Engineering Commission established a base for the building of the railroad at the mouth of Ship Creek, Knik Arm, at the head of Cook Inlet. A tent city, to become known as Anchorage, sprang up in a night. On April 10, 1915, President Wilson announced the selection of the route from Anchorage to Fairbanks and Chatanika with numerous branches into the developing coal fields. Absorbing earlier lines along the route, the completed system was 537 miles in length. On July 1, 1918, the express companies in the United States were consolidated into a single company known as the American Railway Express as part of the war effort, and that company took over Wells Fargo's operations in Alaska. On May 15, 1922, the Alaska Engineering Commission signed a contract for the American Railway Express to conduct the express service throughout Alaska.

Although Wells Fargo's domestic express activities came to an end in 1918, Wells Fargo Bank continues to serve the West. Today it is not only the oldest bank in the region but the third largest as well. The Bank was separated from the company's express business in 1905, but it keeps alive the heritage from the early days by maintaining museums in San Francisco, Old Sacramento, and Los Angeles. An exciting part of that tradition is Wells Fargo's service to the people of Alaska from 1911–1918, in delivering express and mail throughout the year, no matter what the weather, by sleds pulled by dog teams or reindeer, by horse-drawn wagons and stages, by motor coaches outfitted with skis, and by river boats, railroad cars, and steamships.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE

Much of the information in this article was obtained from two monthly trade journals: *The Express Gazette*, 1897–1922, and the *Wells Fargo Messenger*, 1912–1918. Other sources included the *List of Offices, Agents and Correspondents* for Wells, Fargo & Company's Express, 1883, and *Official Directories* of Wells, Fargo & Co., 1912–1916. A significant advertisement appeared in the *Portland City Directory* for 1885. Various newspapers including the *Weekly Star* of Whitehorse, *Dawson Daily News*, the Fairbanks *News-Miner*, the *Weekly Oregonian* (Portland), *Daily Oregon Herald* (Portland), and the *San Francisco Examiner* published items of interest. Two pamphlets: *The Yukon Territory: Its History and Resources* (Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, 1916) and *Anchorage Alaska: The Key to an Empire's Storehouse* (Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, 1916) also provided valuable data.

W. Turrentine Jackson *is Professor of History, Emeritus at the University of California, Davis. He is past president of the Western History Association and at present senior partner in Jackson Research Projects, historical consultants.*

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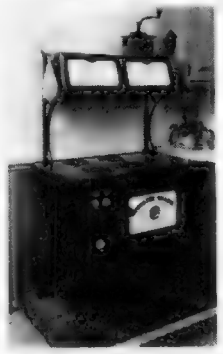

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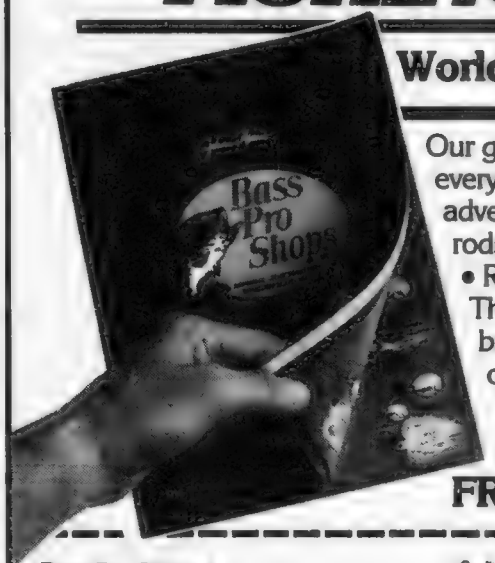

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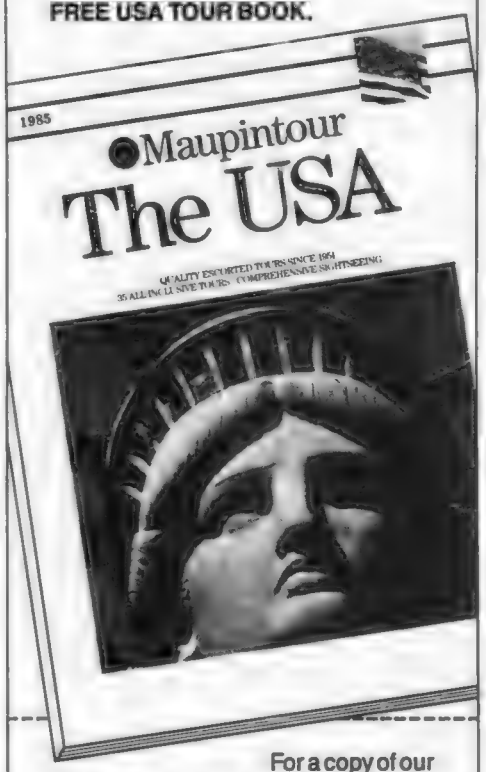

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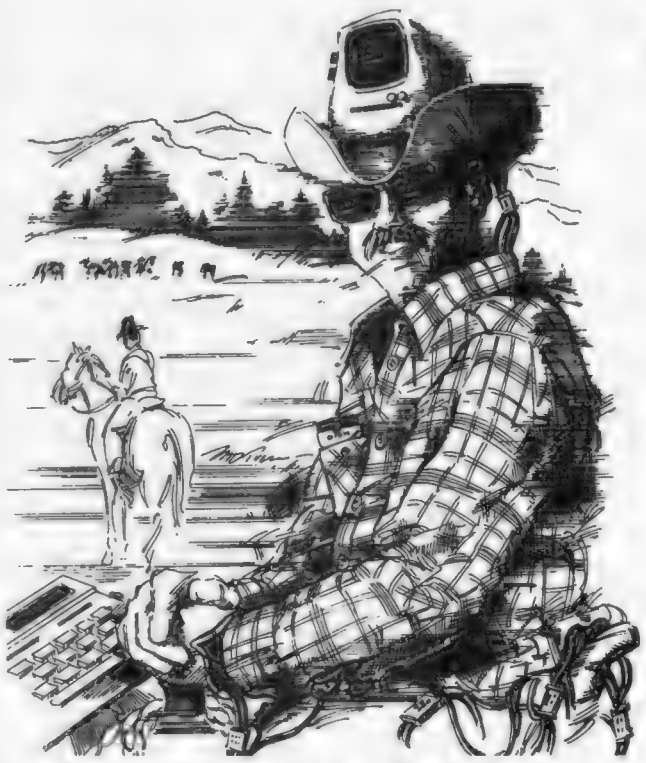

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Computer Cowboy Rides the Range

Visitors to Fremont County, Wyoming, can spot a seemingly incongruous combination roaming the range these days. When cattleman Rick Allen saddles up to check on his herd, he carries a bit of 1980s technology in his saddlebag that would make ranch hands of a century ago suspect their morning coffee had been spiked with a little red-eye. Western traditionalists beware — Allen packs a computer.

With his portable Radio Shack Model 100, Allen can log in data about every one of his 530 cows as he rides or drives over his 86,000 acres of deeded and Forest Service–leased land. He later transfers the information onto a permanent disk at home, using his Radio Shack Model 4P computer. Since April 1983 Allen has been relying on the computer to store facts he's too busy to go over in the hectic spring and summer months. He finds the computer especially handy during calving in February and March, when he can easily note a particular cow's problems with its offspring or any ailments afflicting a cow. This in turn helps him do a better job of culling weak, poorly producing animals, thereby strengthening his herd. He also keeps the Model 100 on hand at the working chute while vaccinating cattle. By just punching a few keys, either Allen or one of his hands can call up the record of an individual cow.

Allen usually doesn't find time to review his data until fall, when he also implements a spread-sheet program to help him market his calves. The computer serves as a word processor for writing letters and articles, too.

Someday, Allen would like to implant computer chips in his cows, much like those now widely used by the dairy industry. "We lose ten percent of our ear tags each year," Allen says.

By replacing the tags with imbedded chips, identifying a cow would consist of a simple and quick electronic check. Can robot cowboys be far behind?

Rodeo wrangling. What town held the West's first formalized rodeo? It may seem like a trivial question, but the answer isn't, at least not to John Wojtkun, director of the Pecos, Texas, Department of Tourism and Development.

Wojtkun's Pecos pride was piqued when he ran across a question while playing the Genus

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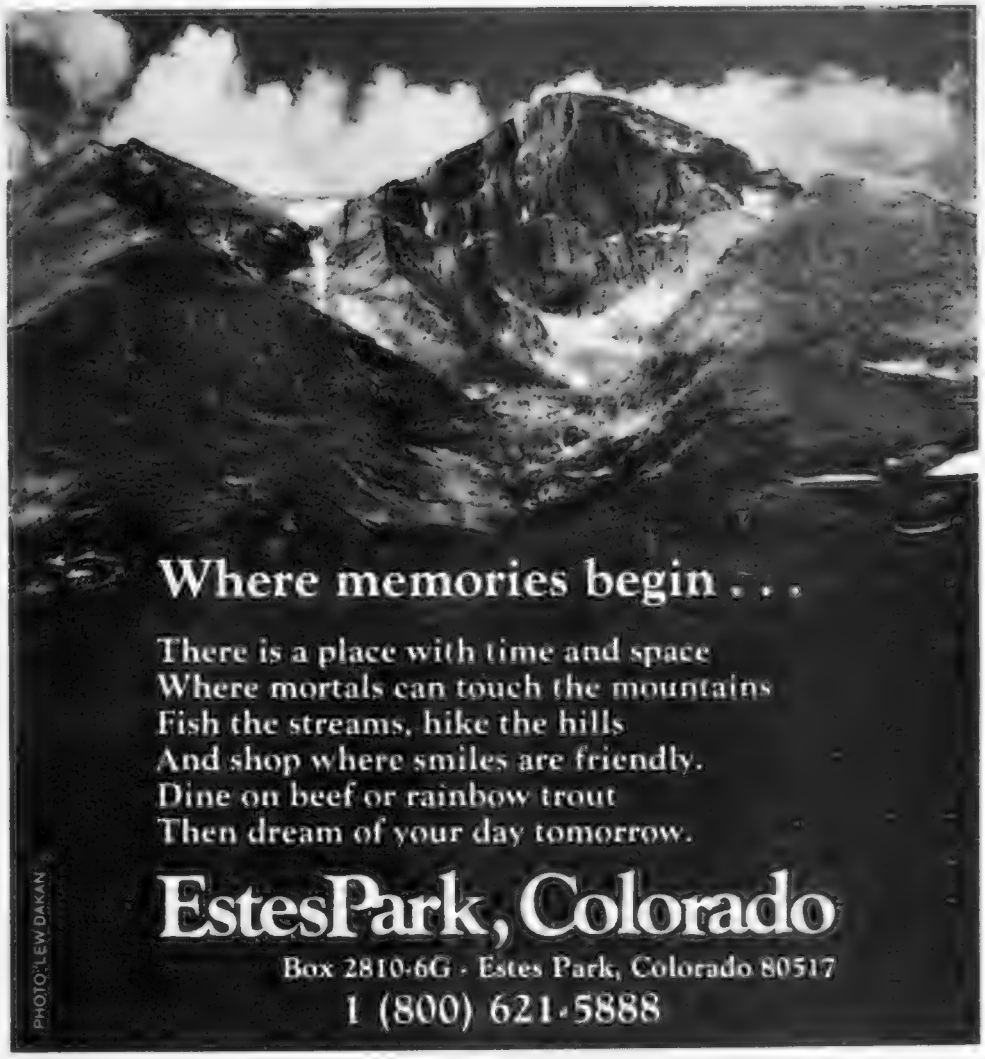

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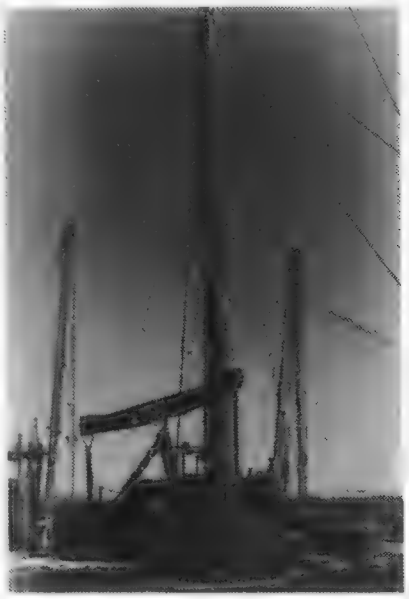

Remember the men of the oil fields of the 20's and 30's whose hands dug the ditches, drilled the wells, produced the gas and oil, and who sweated and shivered at thousands of locations. The Museum's "oil patch" is dedicated to those who were so significant in the history of the State of Texas.

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II edition of the popular game Trivial Pursuit. The sports and leisure question (orange) on card 415 reads, "What rough and tumble Western sport was first formalized in Prescott, Ariz.?"

Wojtkun promptly informed the game's creator, Horn Abbott, Ltd., that it was Pecos, and not Prescott, that held the first "cowboy Christmas" on July 4, 1883, a date he backs up with several encyclopedia references. Threatening legal action, Wojtkun wants the issue treated seriously. "One man's trivia is another man's significa," he claims.

And what does Prescott, Arizona, have to say about the fuss? "It's just for publicity, but it's bound to help rodeo in general," claimed local Prescott historian Danny Freeman. Freeman possesses newspaper clippings describing Prescott's first rodeo, for which admission was charged, unlike the Pecos event. The Prescott Frontier Days logo, emblazoned with a buckaroo astride a bronc, reads, "World's Oldest Rodeo—since 1888." The Prescott rodeo has been held every year without a break, while Pecos had a lengthy hiatus between its first rodeos and later ones. Prescott, too, can cite encyclopedia entries to back up its claim.

To settle the matter, Wojtkun proposes that Horn Abbott, Ltd., offer two cards: one asking where the first rodeo was held, the other where the longest-running rodeo takes place. To him, it's not just a game. He figures as many as seventy-five million people may play the game, which could translate into a heck of a crowd for Pecos rodeo.

Why the dinosaurs died out. A giant asteroid that crashed into earth sixty-five million years ago kicked up a dust cloud that may have led to the extinction of the dinosaurs, according to the Alvarez Team Hypothesis postulated in the early 1980s. New findings in Colorado and New Mexico indicate that the asteroid that caused the cloud may have struck a continental area, possibly near Manson, Iowa, rather than an ocean area as was previously supposed. Significant amounts of "shocked quartz"—previously found only at nuclear explosion and meteor impact sites—were discovered in these Western states at the boundary between the Cretaceous and Tertiary ages, the same time period during which most of the giant lizards were wiped out. Geologists believe the quartz to be impact ejecta blasted from the Iowa site.

Iridium-laden rocks were found adjacent to the shocked quartz, another indicator of asteroid impact. Iridium, rare on earth but common in meteorites and asteroids, has been found in a layer of clay present at the same Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary in over seventy locales worldwide, including Denmark, Italy,

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PLAINS INDIAN POWWOW: June 28
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and Spain. Formation of the impact site in Manson, Iowa, which measures forty kilometers in diameter, has been dated at approximately the same age. The clay is thought to be fallout from the dust cloud.

Scientists speculate that when the asteroid hit, the massive dust cloud it raised choked off sunlight for several years at least, killing vast quantities of plant life, disrupting the food chain, and leading to widespread extinctions.

Indian bonds. The Jicarilla Apache Tribe in northwestern New Mexico have issued tax-exempt bonds, the first Indian tribe to take advantage of the Indian Tribal Governmental Tax Status Act passed by Congress in January 1983.

Under the provisions of the Act, tribal bonds are given the tax-exempt status granted to state and local governments, provided that the projects financed by the bonds meet the definition of an essential government function.

According to Tom Ratcliff, a senior vice president at Boettcher & Company, Inc., the investment banking firm that underwrote the bonds, they will be offered to institutional investors only, and not to the public at large. The Apaches' bonds have received a Standard & Poor's rating of "A."

Jicarilla Apache Chief Leonard Atole came up with the idea of issuing the bonds in order to raise funds to buy a 55,000-acre ranch adjacent to the reservation in Rio Arriba County. The newly purchased land will be used for grazing livestock and hunting.

Black gold. New oil projects near Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, are expected to yield several billion more barrels to help keep American wheels spinning. Sohio Oil reports that about forty percent of the estimated ten billion barrels of recoverable oil discovered at the Prudhoe Bay field in 1968 have already been consumed. When drilling first began in Prudhoe Bay, the company estimated that it would be able to recover more oil than the technology of that time was capable of extracting, foreseeing that more sophisticated techniques for extracting the precious fossil fuel would soon be developed.

One new process, miscible gas injection, involves injecting the natural gas that is obtained from the drilling site back into the well to draw out more oil. Another new method devised to reach the Arctic oil fields is horizontal drilling, different from commonly used directional drilling in that after workers drill straight down, the pipe is gradually curved to a horizontal position so that oil can be drawn from a greater area.

Construction work on the nearby Lisburne oil field, an onshore-offshore site, has begun, and plans are brewing for development of the offshore Endicott oil fields as well.

Navajo eviction. Since the nineteenth century when white pioneers forced Navajos onto traditionally Hopi lands in northeastern Arizona, Navajos and Hopis have coexisted there on uneasy terms. After decades of animosity between the two tribes, the situation was brought to a head in 1974 when Congress set forth the Hopi–Navajo Relocation Program, ordering the eviction of 10,000 Navajos from Hopi partition land by July 1986.

With the deadline approaching, there are still 6,000 Navajos living on partition land. Families and individuals who lived on the disputed land during or before 1974 qualify for replacement homes in suburban communities. The Navajo–Hopi Relocation Committee facilitates their move. Those who qualify receive relocation benefits, but many Navajos feel the benefits cannot compensate for the loss of their traditional way of life as sheepherders. Unused to handling mortgages, nearly thirty percent of the relocated Navajos have lost their new homes due to excessive debts.

The Hopis do not plan to occupy the vacated land. Traditional Hopis regard the area as sacred, and there has been controversy within the tribe over the Hopi Tribal Council's

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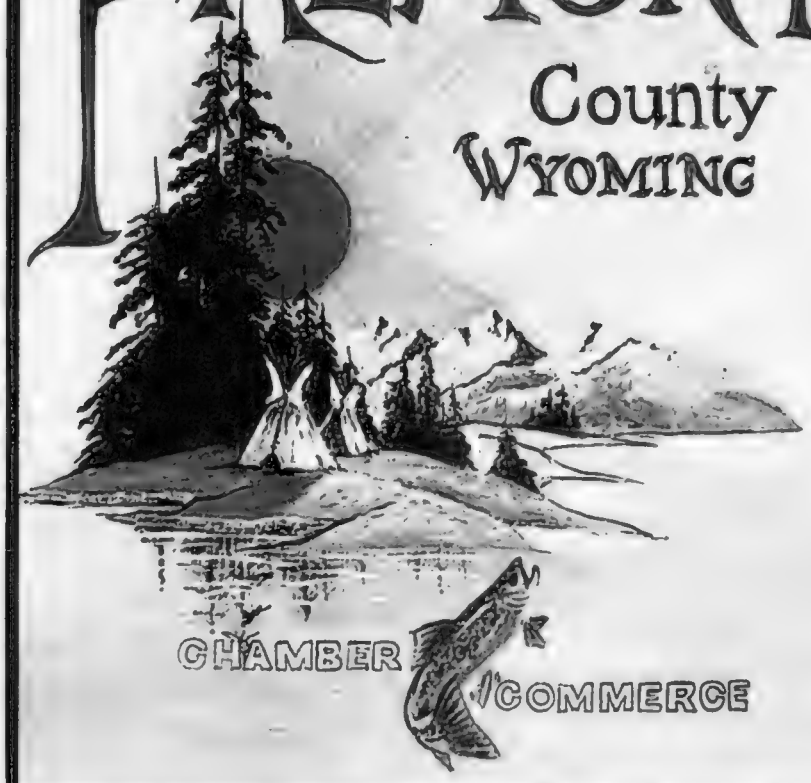

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Produced in cooperation with the Wyoming Travel Commission

tentative plans to strip mine the coal-rich area.

When the deadline rolls around, the Relocation Commission will turn a list of those Navajos still residing on partition land over to the Hopis, who most likely will file for the Navajos' eviction. The American Indian Movement (AIM) is determined to hold the land for the Navajos, deadline or not.

John C. Frémont comes to the small screen when Richard Chamberlain stars in a CBS miniseries about the pioneering exploits of this Western explorer. Adapted for television by Evan Hunter, the show is based on the novel *Dream West* by David Nevin. Airing in three consecutive segments, the episodes cover Frémont's life from his surveying expeditions in the 1840s to his dismissal as commander of the western department of the United States Army in 1861. Frémont's relationship with his strong-willed wife, Jessie Benton, his trek West to map the Oregon Trail, and his ill-fated journey over the San Juan Mountains are some of the highlights that will be dramatized, along with his nomination in 1856 as the first presidential candidate of the newly formed Republican Party.

Executive producer Chuck McClain and Chamberlain together proposed the project to CBS. Both felt that American viewers would welcome a chance to learn more about the Great Pathfinder. Said Chamberlain about his fascination with the role, "There was a wild energy about Frémont—he was one of those rare people who made things happen."

The show was shot on location in Grand Teton National Park; Gillette, Wyoming; Central City and La Junta, Colorado; Tucson, Flagstaff, and the Grand Canyon, Arizona; and in Richmond, Virginia. Scheduled air time is mid-April 1986.

That's a lotta lava. Dr. Thomas Wright of the United States Geological Survey in Hawaii reports that the largest recorded volume of lava in a single eruption has been ejected from the Kilauea Volcano. From January 1983 through December 1985, approximately 450 million cubic meters of molten rock flowed from the active crater. The USGS uses aerial photographs to estimate these figures.

Thirty-six episodes of fountaining have built the large Pu-u O'o cone in the middle of the east rift zone of the volcano. In between the surface eruptions, scientists have observed magma in the vent area, indicating the constant activity of the volcano. Since written records in Hawaii date back only 150 years, Dr. Wright feels fairly certain that eruptions of this magnitude and larger have occurred in Hawaii's past.

Victorian elegance. The Jerome Hotel, symbol of the sumptuous living Aspen enjoyed during the silver boom in the 1880s, has recently received a facelift. Brass and cut-glass light fixtures and chandeliers, graceful Eastlake furniture, and floor tiles that were relegated to basements and attic closets have been unearthed and polished to their original shine. On December 31, 1985, the hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, officially acknowledging its status as an Aspen treasure.

The luxurious hostelry was built in 1889 by financier Jerome B. Wheeler, former president of New York City's Macy's department store and one of Aspen enthusiastic investors during the silver boom. Besides constructing the magnificent hotel, Wheeler invested heavily in the silver mines, enabling capital-poor miners to purchase the necessary equipment.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS:

"Artist in Residence: The North Country Art of Frederic Remington"
April 18—June 1, 1986
"The Collectors' West": A Selection of Paintings from the Ten Best Public Collections of American Western Art
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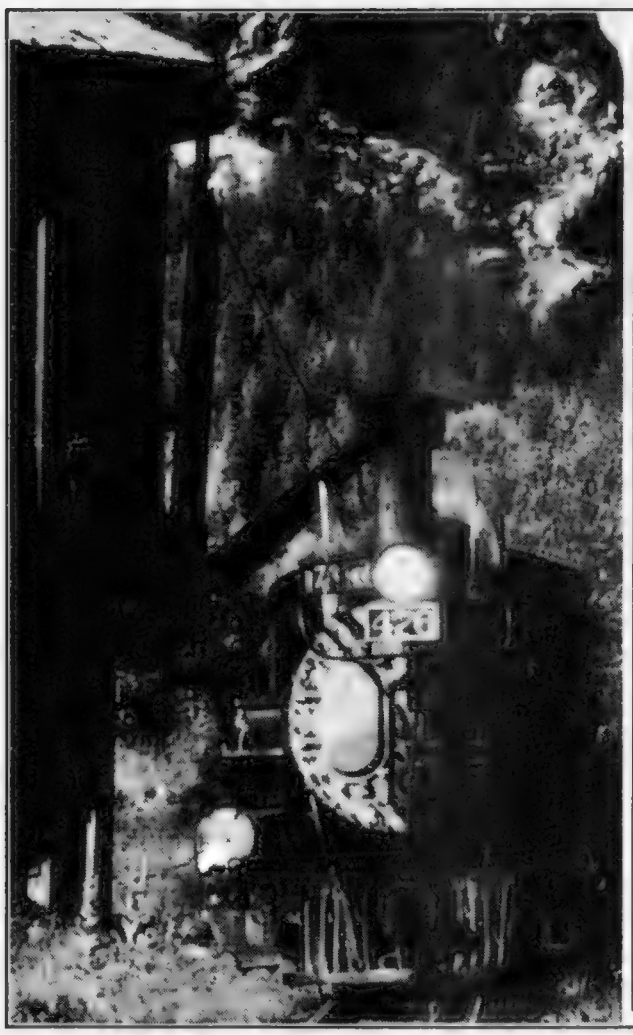

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Western Art Notes

PICTORIAL RESERVATION SCENE (1967)

COURTESY THE KATONAH GALLERY

Navajo Weavings, Navajo Ways

Intricate, colorful Navajo weavings display dynamic patterns, as do a selection of rare watercolor drawings of sandpaintings in the exhibit "Navajo Weavings, Navajo Ways" showing at the Katonah Gallery in Katonah, New York, March 17–May 25, 1986. Used by the Navajos for centuries as items of trade, the historic weavings reflect a succession of influences upon the tribe from contact with other cultures.

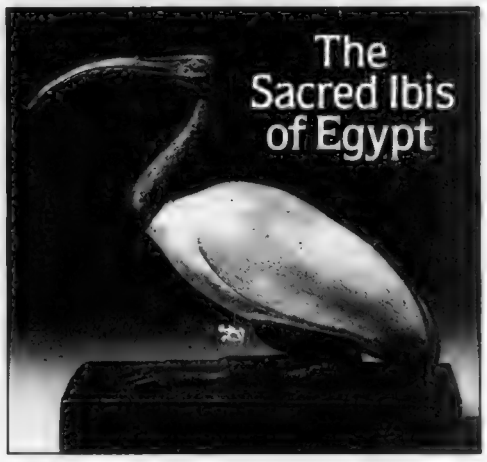
Along with the Reservation Scene (1967) pictured here, the featured weavings include fragments from "Massacre Cave" (ca. 1885) and a Tec Nos Pas rug, revealing the influence of Persian rugs introduced by traders in the early 1930s.

Franc Newcomb, an educator who with her husband owned a trading post on the Navajo Reservation, executed the watercolors of the sandpaintings in the 1930s. Hosteen Klah, a revered Navajo intellectual and medicine man, authenticated the drawings, eager to preserve his tribe's traditions. The selected paintings, on loan from the Bush Collection of Columbia University, depict scenes from two Indian ceremonials, the Night Chant and the Male Shooting Chant.

A hogan, the traditional Navajo dwelling, a Navajo upright loom, a photo essay, maps, murals, and other documentary materials in the exhibit portray aspects of Navajo culture. The Katonah Gallery is publishing an activity workbook in conjunction with the exhibit containing instructions for constructing a Navajo loom and weaving Indian designs, along with an original story and descriptions of Navajo children's games.

A trading post weekend will be held in April, when a replica of an old trading post will be erected and goods like turquoise and silver jewelry, wall hangings, rugs, and dolls will be for sale. As a cultural exchange program, a textile weaving begun by Navajo youths in Chinle, Arizona, during the summer of 1985 will be finished by students in Westchester County, New York. A specially constructed loom will accompany the partially completed weaving.

Cattle and cowpunchers, firearms and Kansas farms populate Easterner Frederic Remington's sketches of his first encounters with the West. Circulated by the Mid-America Arts Alliance, "Remington's Early Years" is comprised of works the budding artist did during his stay in Kansas City and other parts West from 1881 to 1885, when he traveled through the Dakotas, Montana, Arizona, and Texas. Showing March 5–26 at the University of Oklahoma's Museum of Art in Norman, these thirty-six drawings and sketches and four paintings mark the start of Remington's lifelong passion to preserve images of the vanishing frontier.



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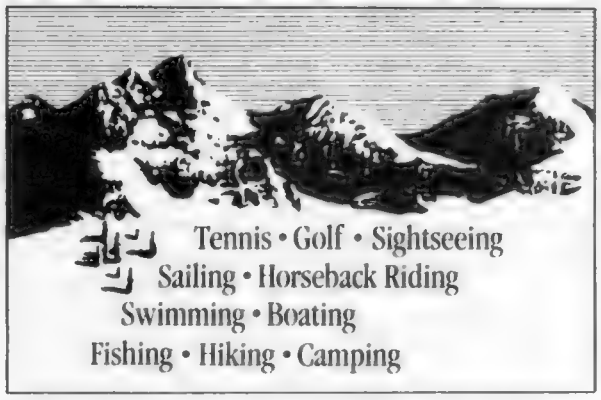

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A Gallery of Women pays tribute to the historic and contemporary achievements of American women. Organized by the Adolph Coors Company of Golden, Colorado, the exhibit consists of four plexiglass panels depicting women like choreographer and dancer Isadora Duncan, Olympic gold medalist Babe Didrikson Zaharias, and playwright Maya Angelou. Memorable quotations by the women accompany the panels, which can be seen in California March 10–15 at the Arco Tower in Los Angeles, April 14–15 at the Anaheim Hilton and Tower in Anaheim, and April 20–23 at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Sixty illustrations by artist and illustrator Harold Von Schmidt for Willa Cather's 1927 novel *Death Comes for the Archbishop* are on display at the Cowboy Artists of America Museum in Kerrville, Texas, now through March 29. Distinguished for bringing fine art to the field of illustrating, Von Schmidt was commissioned by Cather to draw the black-and-white pen-and-ink illustrations, which he based on the hundreds of authentic items like saddles, war bonnets, and weapons that he kept in his studio.

Indians as cultural curiosities were the focus of photographs by luminaries like Albert Bierstadt and W. H. Jackson. Later, after George Trager's gripping portrayal of the Battle of Wounded Knee, Edward Curtis and John Anderson adopted a sympathetic tone, conveying the notion of the noble Indian. These and other works in the exhibit "The Plains Indian and Photography 1850–1918" show the evolution of photographs of Indians, examining how they reinforced and sometimes even generated white stereotypes of Indians. The exhibit runs March 22–September 21, 1986, at the Nebraska Historical Society in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Outside New York features the innovative talents of seven contemporary artists working outside the geographic mainstream of New York City. The paintings of Texas artists Susan Whyne and Robert Yarber reflect the emotions and experience of modern living, while those of Julie Bozzi, also working in Texas, are notable for their precision and detail. Oklahoma artist Yee Jan Bao combines a personal response to nature with traditional landscape painting. This collection of diverse works, put together by the New Museum of Contemporary Art in New York, can be seen April 4–June 8 at the Palm Springs Desert Museum, Palm Springs, California.

Superb paintings of the American West by masters of the medium like Frank Tenney Johnson, C. M. Russell, and Olaf Wieghorst present traditional images of the Old West. On view at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 16–April 27, 1986, these pieces offer an opportunity to take a nostalgic journey through the cowboy West.

The Maui Marine Art Expo in Hawaii marks the third annual gathering of distinguished painters and sculptors whose works revolve around a marine theme. Randy Joseph employs the exotic hardwoods of Hawaii to carve impressionistic sculptures of whales, dolphins, and seabirds. Painter Richard Pettit uses watercolors to capture the brilliant colors of Hawaii's fish. These and fourteen other artists display their interpretations of marine life February 1–March 31 at the Maui Inter-Continental Wailea Hotel on the island of Maui, Hawaii.

Musical instruments as art. Carefully crafted contemporary musical instruments created by artists/musicians throughout the country are on display at the University of Arizona's Museum of Art in Tucson. Organized by the Cincinnati Contemporary Art Center, the fanciful mixtures of sculpture and instruments like bamboo pan pipes and less traditional creations like a miniature children's slide strung with harp strings can be seen and played February 23–March 23.

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Other ancient peoples considered the comet to be a bad omen. As recently as the 1910 appearance, some scientists predicted that all life on Earth would be annihilated by the poison gas of the comet's tail. Some people chose suicide rather than face a more horrible end. Others flocked to churches to pray for salvation. The reverse side of our medal is inspired by the historical fear of the comet, depicted by our monster dashing to Earth. The classic Latin inscription, LIBERA NOS A MALO COMETAE,™ translated means "Save Us From The Evil Of The Comet," and along with the Celtic crosses attempt to hold the monster evil in check.

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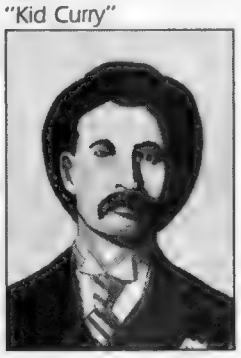
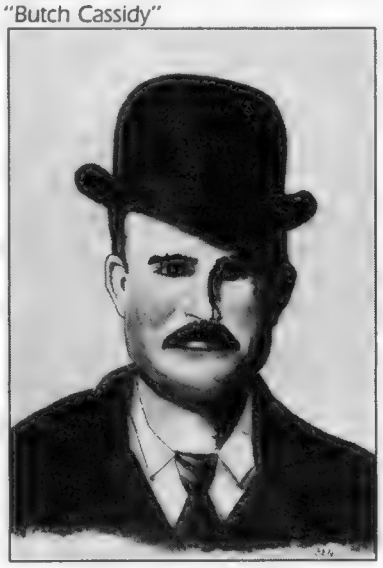


"Butch Cassidy"



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Hidden Inns & Lost Trails

Taos Inn: The Appeal of History, Art, and Adobe

by Merilee Dannemann

In the late 1930s when Taos, New Mexico, was still a sleepy little adobe village, the Martin Hotel, later renamed the Taos Inn, was just about the easiest place in town to find. Locals would arrange to meet their out-of-town guests there, since Taos streets were a twisted maze and street signs barely existed before 1978. The Inn became a living room where local people could count on finding friendly company at any time of day.

Helen Martin converted her property one block north of Taos Plaza to a hotel in 1936. Mrs. Martin was the widow of Dr. T. Paul Martin, the irascible, hard-drinking, and well-beloved country doctor, who was known as "Doc" to everybody, and who kept a bottle of something labeled "horse liniment" under his examining table. He delivered virtually every baby for a generation in the Taos area.

The Martin property included their own house and several adjoining houses, Territorial-period buildings with the earthy grace of hand-mudded adobe, surrounding an open square in back and a closed courtyard in front. The courtyard, with two-story-high walls and tiny upper windows, was used in Kit Carson's time as a fortification and lookout against Indian raids. The old town well was in the courtyard. The most drastic change Mrs. Martin made (after installing plumbing) was to roof over the courtyard and convert it to a lobby. That comfortable lobby, with its thick adobe walls, fireplace, balconies, and bright skylights has been a central gathering place for Taos ever since, retaining its informal coziness through five sets of owners to the present day.

There has always been a close relationship between the Inn and Taos artists. Helen Martin was a sister-in-law of Bert Phillips, one of the art colony's founders, and the Taos Society of Artists was formed in 1912 in the Martin living room. The neighborly intimacy was strengthened in 1953, when the Taos Art Association was formed. The TAA took up residence next door and the Inn became its unofficial refreshment headquarters, for artists after hanging a show, for actors and musicians after rehearsals, for the art-loving public after an opening at the theater or gallery.

The Inn and the arts have never been closer than they are today. The current owners frequently change the displays of Taos art that always adorn its walls. In addition, the Inn offers a series of "Meet the Artist" evenings each spring and fall, and is a major sponsor of

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*Conditions apply. Entertainers subject to change.

the annual Spring Arts Celebration.

The owners undertook a major restoration when they acquired the Inn in 1981. Each hotel room is individual in shape, size, and furnishings. All are fitted with antiques, decorative touches of wrought iron, hand-loomed Zapotec Indian bedspreads, and private baths with Mexican tile. Most rooms have Pueblo-style fireplaces; these, and the fireplaces in the public areas, were either built or rebuilt by Carmen Velarde of Taos, who made a Pueblo-style adobe oven *(horno)* for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. For guests who enjoy the modern conveniences, the Inn offers twenty-four-hour phone service and cable television in the rooms.

Dr. Martin's living room is now Doc Martin's Restaurant, serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Seating areas have been greatly expanded, and patio dining is available in summer, all in keeping with the old-style graciousness.

The Taos Inn, which has been designated as a National Historic Place, is open year-round. For information, contact the Taos Inn, P.O. Drawer N, Taos, New Mexico; or phone toll-free, 800-TAOS-INN.

COURTESY TAOS INN

Merilee Dannemann *is a free-lance writer who lived in Taos for many years. She now resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

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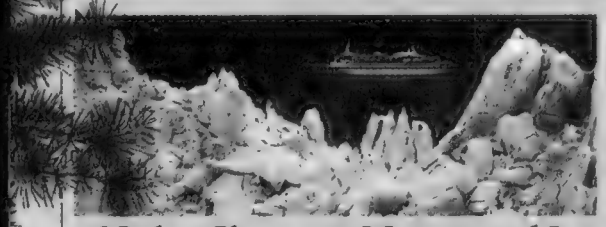

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Age: ☐ *25-44* ☐ *45-64* ☐ *65+*

5MAK05ANO300

TRAVEL CALENDAR

March through August 1986

Hitch a ride with AMERICAN WEST's semiannual travel calendar and explore the fun and exciting events taking place in every state west of the Mississippi. Revisit the days of the pioneers at mountain-men camps, take part in wacky races on land and sea, or treat your ears to a country-western musical extravaganza. Since dates and times are subject to change without notice, please check in advance, using the telephone numbers listed for each event.

ILLUSTRATIONS DRAWN FOR AMERICAN WEST BY MARK D. TUCCI/BLUE HORSE PRODUCTIONS

ALASKA

Alaska Division of Tourism
Pouch E
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-2010

March

16: Bering Sea Ice Classic Golf Tournament. This six-hole course of ice is dyed St. Patrick's Day green—a bright contrast to the orange balls golfers hook, slice, and hack into sunken, flagged coffee cans. Snowmobiles and harnessed dogs serve as caddies for this wacky game. Nome. (907) 443-2136

May

26 (tentative): Polar Bear Swim. Gutsy participants take a quick dip in the icy waters of the Bering Sea. Submersion of the entire body in the thirty-degree waters grants them official Nome Polar Bear status. That and a dime will get them a much-needed cup of hot coffee. Nome. (907) 443-2213

June

21: Midnight Sun Hot Air Balloon Classic. In the bright night of the longest day of the year, balloonists toss bean bags from their baskets to a target below. Whoever comes closest—on time—wins. Anchorage. (907) 346-3323

July

30–Aug. 2: World Eskimo/Indian Olympics. Native people from all over Alaska compete in traditional games like the Ear Pull—where two people tied together by a string around their ears walk away from each other, and the first one to give in loses. Fairbanks. (907) 452-2088

August

6–10: Gold Rush Days. See turn-of-the-century clothing modeled at an old-time fashion show, or pay to have someone "arrested" and thrown in the hoosegow—where "punishment" is a glass of wine and a ride through town. Valdez. (907) 835-2330

ARIZONA

Arizona Office of Tourism
1480 East Bethany Home Road, #180
Phoenix, Arizona 85014
(602) 255-3618

March

15–Apr. 15 (excluding nights when comet is not visible): Halley's Celestial Safari. Nighttime sky gazers and comet chasers slip away to a dark location to catch a once-in-a-lifetime glimpse of Halley's Comet. Astronomers answer questions and set up telescopes so everyone can take a good look at the bright heavenly traveler. Tucson, (602) 795-0038. In conjunction with the viewings, the special program "Realm of the Comets" will be showing at the Flandrau Planetarium in Tucson. (602) 621-4556

April

4–May 4: Trappings of the West: Knives, Leather, and Paintings. Western craftsmanship is showcased in this exhibit. Folk art workshops and demonstrations will be presented each weekend of the show. Flagstaff. (602) 779-5944

5: Arid Land Plant Show. Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum hosts this annual program, which features demonstrations on irrigation, discovering edible native foods, how to plant and propagate plants, and identification of wildflowers. Slide shows, displays, lectures, and tours teach current arid landscaping methods. Superior. (602) 689-2811

24–27: La Vuelta de Bisbee. Competitive cyclists try to break away from the pack in time trials, criteriums, and an endurance road race. Riders tackle a winding, hilly course in this challenging international cycling event. Bisbee. (602) 432-2141

July

26–27: State Championship Loggers Sawdust Festival. Bucking, log-rolling, ax-throwing, sawing, and burling events in several arenas make this a logger's three-ring circus. Three-man teams scramble up a greased pole to ring a cowbell at the top. Women can try their hand at the rolling-pin toss—the current record is over ninety feet. Payson. (602) 474-4515

ARKANSAS

Department of Parks and Tourism
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 371-7777

March

3–May 30: "Watch Where You're Goin'." The Tell-A-Tale Troop from the Arkansas Arts Center travels throughout the state performing this historical, song-and-dance-filled play, written to celebrate the 1986 Arkansas Sesquicentennial. (501) 372-4000

April

19: 6th Annual Arkansas College Ozark

Scottish Festival. See men in highland garb run the "kilted mile" race, just one of many Scottish events including a caber toss, bagpipe contest, top-notch dancing display, and ceilidh (Scottish party). Batesville. (501) 793-9813, ext. 242

27–May 2: Warfield Music Festival. Enjoy six evenings of free concerts featuring: flautist Edwin Hubbard with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra; soprano Gianna Rolandi; the quintet Top Brass; the American Boy Choir; pianist Misha Dichter; and Ballet Arkansas. Helena. (501) 338-8327

May

9–11: Heart of the Ozarks Spring Arts & Crafts Fair. A profusion of crafts from porcelain dolls to hand-painted china to wood carvings. Folk will be dressed in 1836-style Ozark costumes for the sesquicentennial. Harrison. (501) 743-1608

June

13–15: Salute to Statehood Weekend. The state capital commemorates Arkansas' big 150th birthday with a full weekend of special activities. Opening ceremonies are followed by a pioneer breakfast and Indian powwow the next morning. Tours through historic Little Rock buildings highlight different periods in history. On June 15, the governor delivers an address, and at 8:00 P.M., every church bell in the state rings out a "happy birthday!" A sesquicentennial painting exhibit and a quilting contest, as well as hot air balloon rides, add to the celebrations. Little Rock. (501) 371-1500

August

14–16: Tontitown Grape Festival. Townfolk fete the peak of the grape harvest with a "Go For the Grapes" race, homemade spaghetti dinners, grape judging, and the crowning of Queen Concordia. Live country-western music, bingo, and a carnival for the kids, too. Tontitown. (501) 751-4694

CALIFORNIA

California Office of Tourism
1121 L Street, Suite 103
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 322-2881

March

1–2: Russian River Wine Road Barrel Tasting. Discover the secrets of converting lowly grapes into divine nectar on tours of wineries throughout Sonoma County. Compare samples of aging wines drawn directly from the cask with the final product. Geyserville. (707) 433-2917

May

1–4: Turtle Days. Box turtles will be crawling neck and shell for fame, glory, and a turtle trophy in the time-honored tradition of the town's spring turtle races. A carnival, parade, street dance, square dance, and horseshoe-pitching tournament as well. Joshua Tree. (619) 366-8946

3–Aug. 31: Centennial Celebration. The denizens of Dunsmuir mark their town's 100th birthday with special events every weekend. Highlights include a baseball festival, attended by several big-name ballplayers, with inductions into the county hall of fame. A visit by the mayor of Victoria, British Columbia, recalls the fact that Canadian emigrés founded this railroad town. The placing of a time capsule in town and a marathon over the Cascade Mountains from Dunsmuir to Ashland, Oregon, cap the festivities in late August. Dunsmuir. (916) 235-2177 or 235-2085

June

14–15: Days of Kit Carson Celebration & Parade. Bodacious pioneer fun like black-powder demonstrations, tomahawk throwing, a mountain men parade, and the arrival of an authentic wagon train following its descent through Kit Carson Pass in the Sierra Nevada, all sponsored by the Kit Carson Mountain Men of Amadore County. Jackson. (209) 267-5640

July

26: Poker Ride. Bring your own horse and journey over hill and dale on a 13–16-mile course in Cuyamaca State Park, picking up and trading in cards as you go. Savvy players finishing with the best poker hands win cash and equestrian tack. Descanso. (619) 765-0755

August

30: Rural Olympics. Loads of farmyard fun with mechanical hay-loading races, tractor-backing races, an antique tractor race, and an antique car potato race—the passenger stabs potatos with a spear and picks them up as the driver zooms along. Lancaster. (805) 948-6060

COLORADO

Colorado Tourism Board
5500 South Syracuse St., Suite 267
Englewood, Colorado 80111
(303) 779-1067

March

22–23 (tentative): Whooping Crane Festival. A flock of this endangered species is expected to alight in Monte Vista during their flight north. Festival highlights include tours to see the birds, and a dinner program featuring a speaker on the Whooping Crane project. Monte Vista. (303) 852-2731

April

5–13: Snowmass/Aspen Banana Season. Bikini-clad skiers and snow lovers go bananas over the zany Banana Olympics, Banana Bonanza Hunt, Banana Ball with Carmen Miranda look-alike contest, Banana Bazaar Sidewalk Sale, plus lift ticket and lodging discounts. Snowmass/Aspen. (303) 923-2000

20: Spring Splash. Costumed skiers finish the ski season with a bang in this wacky slalom race. The snow-covered obstacle course ends in the middle of an icy pond—crazy contestants jump or swim to the chilly finish line. Winter Park. (303) 726-5514

May

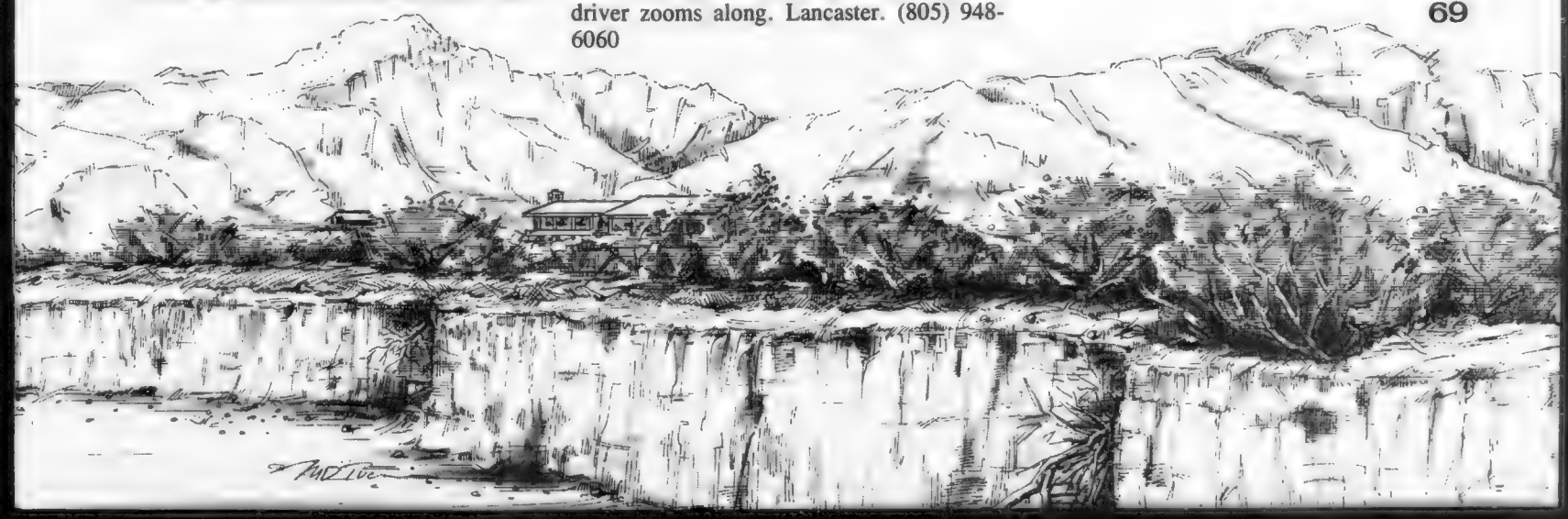
3: 7th Annual Kinetic Sculpture Challenge. In this fun but grueling competition, teams pedal, push, drag, and carry their elaborate human-powered vehicles over a seven-mile course of sand, water, knee-high mud, and hills at the Boulder Reservoir. Judging is based on costumes, engineering, sculpture design, and team sportsmanship. Twenty different awards are presented, like the "Absolute Disaster" and "E. T. Phone Home" awards—given to contestants who fall upon hard times. Boulder. (303) 444-5600

July

12: Governor's Cup Bike Race. Scenic countryside is the setting for this thirty-mile race from Crested Butte to Western State College. Gunnison. (303) 641-1501

August

21–24: Telluride Mushroom Festival. Fun-



gophiles go 'shrooming in the mountains. Courses and workshops led by mycological experts teach wild mushroom fans how to cultivate and identify their favorite fungi. Telluride. (303) 296-9359

HAWAII

Hawaii Visitors Bureau
2270 Kalakaua Avenue, Suite 801
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815
(808) 923-1811

March

31–Apr. 5: Merrie Monarch Festival. Daily hula shows, Hawaiian arts and crafts exhibits, and the Miss Aloha Hula pageant fill this festival named in honor of King David Kalakaua, "Merrie Monarch of the Pacific." Hilo, Hawaii. (808) 935-9168

May

1: Lei Making Competition. Colorful and fragrant leis made from fresh flowers and seeds will be on display at the Kauai Museum. Children can try their hand at the craft in an on-the-spot competition. Lihue, Kauai. (808) 245-6931

17–18: Preservation Parade. Discover the rich history of the island on a guided walking tour through the grand old homes and lush gardens of the Nu'uanu Valley. Honolulu, Oahu. (808) 537-9564

June

14–15: Upcountry Fun Fair. Islanders gather to throw spears at banana tree stumps and to compete in other traditional games of skill. Ethnic food booths offer local specialties like pickled kula onions, and the 4-H club shows off the area's finest livestock. Makawao, Maui. (808) 572-1011

July

Late: Great Hawaiian Road Rally. Drivers and navigators hit the road in this zany island excursion—stopping to solve puzzles, answer questions, and play games to rack up points along the way. Team coordination is tested when the navigator attempts to sink a fishing line in a bottle that the driver of the car can't see. Woah! A little to the left . . . Honolulu, Oahu. (808) 536-9684

IDAHO

Idaho Travel Council
Capitol Building, Room 108
Boise, Idaho 83720
(208) 334-2470

June

7–8: Clearwater Valley Rodeo Celebration. Thrills and spills—rodeo pros don their spurs and chaps for bone-jolting, ripsnorting rides. Live country music and a parade as well. Kamiah. (208) 935-2290

27–Aug. 24: Shakespeare Festival. *A Midsummer Night's Dream, Othello,* and *All's Well That Ends Well* are the featured works by the Bard, along with a modern play by Don Nigro, *A Basque Romance*. The festival celebrates its tenth anniversary this season. Boise. (208) 336-9221

July

13: Old Time Fiddler's Jamboree. A good time is guaranteed for one and all at this fiddling extravaganza. Munch on freshly baked treats while listening to tunes that will set your toes tapping. Shoshone. (208) 886-2979

15–19: Snake River Stampede. Folks will be stampeding into the stands for this PRCA-sanctioned rodeo, one of the top twenty-five in the nation. Highlights include the country-western singing talents of Roy Rogers, Jr., and the Sons of the Pioneers. Nampa. (208) 466-8497

17–20: Kootenai River Days. Zip down as fast as you can or cruise at your own speed in the ten-mile raft race that anyone can enter. Then dry off and take in a rodeo, motorcycle race, or parade. Homespun competitions include a quilt-making contest, horseshoe pitch, darts, chess, and a chili cook-off. Bonner's Ferry. (208) 267-3123

August

1–3: Northern Rockies Folk Festival. Colorful displays of crafts and folk-life workshops reveal the ways people lived in the olden days. On Aug. 2, folk-music performers treat your ears to old-time tunes. Sun Valley. (208) 622-9371

IOWA

Visitors & Tourism
600 E. Court Avenue, Suite A
Des Moines, Iowa 50309
(515) 281-5536

May

15–17: Tulip Festival. Orange City celebrates its Dutch heritage with a "tulips and traditions" theme. Munch out on a *saucijze-broodjes* (better known as a pig-in-a-blanket) while enjoying Dutch dances and songs and the clog of wooden shoes on the street. Orange City. (712) 737-4510

24–25: Folk Art Weekend. The Living History Farm takes you back to the days when self-sufficiency was the name of the game. Candle dipping, soap making, weaving, and spinning are only a few of the crafts demonstrated. Visitors can also view working farms in the mode of Ioway Indians circa 1700, 1840 pioneers, and the early 1900s, or learn about the risks of modern agriculture by playing "AgriGamble" in the crop center. Urbandale. (515) 278-5286

June

8: Grant Wood Art Festival. The site of Grant Wood's art colony 1932–1933, Stone City honors this gifted native Iowan with a juried exhibit of art on the original colony grounds, all-day musical performances, and bus tours through "Grant Wood Country." Stone City. (319) 462-3561

July

4: Star Spangled Spectacular. Stroll down "Artists' Alley," listen to dixieland jazz, singing groups, and band concerts, and take in a patriotic parade. A big-wheel race and pedal-tractor pull entertain the little ones, while young and old enjoy the skill of puppeteers and mimes, and of course, the fireworks. Storm Lake. (712) 732-1170

August

1–9: U.S. National Air Balloon Championship. Competitors guide their colorful aeries to a chosen area and try to hit a mark with ¼-lb. sandbags. Indianola. (515) 961-8415

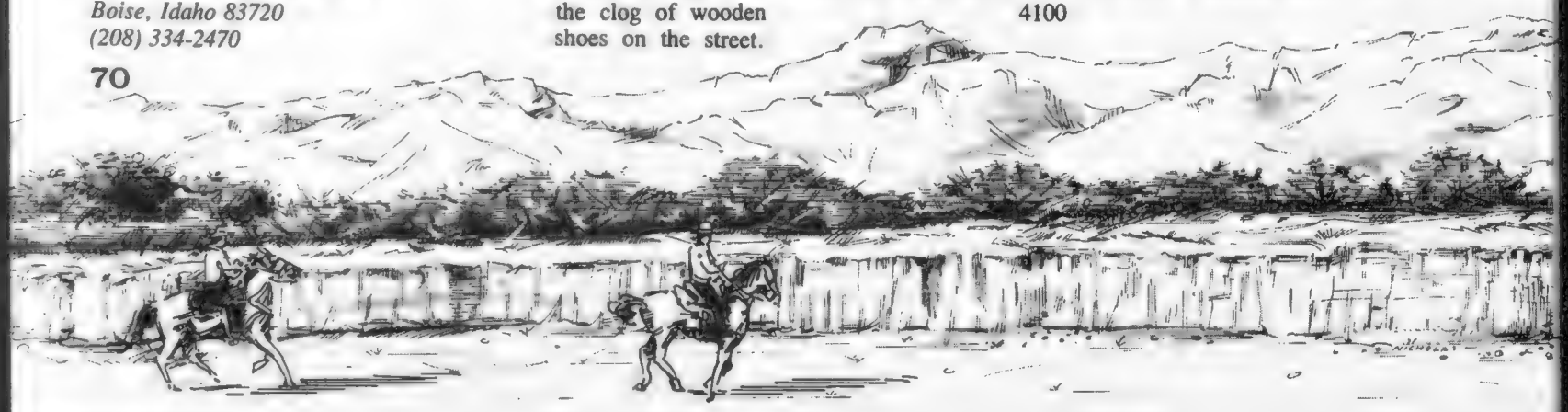
28–Sep. 1: Midwest Old Settlers & Threshers Reunion. Steam engines, tractor pulls, horse pulls, steam threshing, electric-trolley rides—this event has got it all. Singers Ronny Milsap and Micky Gilly will delight country music fans. Mt. Pleasant. (319) 385-8937

KANSAS

Kansas Dept. of Economic Development
Travel and Tourism Division
503 Kansas, 6th floor
Topeka, Kansas 66603
(913) 296-2009

April

11–15: William Inge Festival. A celebration of the life and works of this Independence-born playwright—featuring a performance of *A Loss of Roses*. Independence. (316) 331-4100



May

10: International Rainbow Fest. People of ethnic heritage gather to share their colorful customs. Black gospel music, an Indian war dance, games, songs, and a Mexican hat dance are the pot of gold at the end of this cultural rainbow. Wichita. (316) 267-4201

31–Jun. 1: Butterfield Trail Ride. Travel on horseback through wide-open grass country and camp overnight in the "Cow Chip Capital of Kansas." A dance and rodeo are part of the fun. Russell Springs. (913) 751-4495

June

All month: Storytelling Festival. Hear pioneer yarns spun in a sunny park, or ghost stories whispered in a spooky cemetery when midwestern raconteurs relate northeast Kansas folklore to story-lovers of all ages. Topeka. (913) 233-2040

Mid-Jun.–early Jul.: "Kansas: People of the South Wind." The trials and triumphs of a pioneer family that migrates West and settles in Kansas are dramatized in this play—written in honor of the state's 125th birthday—reminding people of the Sunflower State that there's no place like home. Hiawatha. (913) 742-2050

July

6–7: Independence Days. Relive the heritage of America's heartland at this turn-of-the-century celebration. See period costumes, enjoy food prepared over an open fire, or take a pontoon ride down the Kansas River. Kids can enter the Tom Sawyer look-alike and fence-painting contest, while adults engage in rocking-chair chats with state politicians at the "front porch politics" booth. Lawrence. (913) 843-4411

LOUISIANA

Office of Tourism
Box 44291
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9983
(504) 925-3860

April

11–20: Holiday in Dixie. Anyone can march in the downtown Doo Dah parade—billed as the most fun you can have in public. Shreveport. (318) 227-1515

25–May 4: New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Thousands of jazz musicians hold jam sessions in clubs, at the fairgrounds, and on the riverboat *President*. New Orleans. (504) 568-0251

June

6–7: Cajun Music Festival. Women over sixty-five vying for the Cajun Queen crown tell a joke and a Cajun recipe in French. Traditional Cajun music of a century ago fills the air, and hungry participants stuff themselves in boudin (blood-sausage)-eating contests. Mamou. (318) 468-5555

6–8: Cenlabration. Central Louisianans dish up regional favorites like crawfish fettucine, Natchitoches meat pie, and fried alligator. A motorboat race on the Red River, sky divers, a Civil War battle reenactment, fireworks, bluegrass music, a water skiing exhibition, and other events guarantee something for everyone. Alexandria/Pineville. (318) 442-8556

July

18–20: Louisiana Oyster Festival. Seafood takes center stage at this event, where contenders in the oyster-eating contest down dozens of the slippery mollusks. Galliano. (504) 632-2224

MINNESOTA

Minnesota Office of Tourism
240 Bremer Building, 419 N. Roberts St.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(800) 328-1461 or (800) 652-9747

March

7–9: Moose Gets Loose Festival. Wild and crazy times on the ski slopes with furniture-on-skis races (couches, showers, bath tubs, you name it), an obstacle course around which snowshoe-shod contestants race while balancing beers on a tray, an outlandish long-underwear contest, a concert, hot-air balloon rides, a torchlight parade, and downhill and cross-country ski races. Loose-moose treasure seekers hunt for a gold brick amid all the hullabaloo. Hill City. (218) 697-2324

April

6: Mankato International Festival. Representatives from over fifty different ethnic groups demonstrate crafts from their heritages like Ukrainian egg-painting, palm reading, origami, corn rowing, and karate. Foods from around the world titillate the taste buds, and a grand parade of nations spotlights the colorful native dress of each country. Mankato. (507) 389-1281

June

20–22: Judy Garland Festival. The hometown of this famed actress holds a Judy Garland film festival, offers displays of pictures, tapes, and memorabilia, and invites those who knew Judy to come speak with interested fans. Grand Rapids. (218) 326-6431

27–29: Water Ski Days. Invented in this town by an eighteen-year-old boy in 1922, waterskiing is the featured event in this fun-filled weekend. Other events include a Venetian sailboat parade, live music, a grand parade, and a tug-o-war. Lake City. (612) 345-4123

July

16–Aug. 9: Viennese Sommerfest. This year's concert theme is "Vienna and the New World," with works by composers from Beethoven and Mozart to Gershwin and Copland. Classic films with themes similar to the evening's concert will follow performances during the week of July 28. Minneapolis. (612) 371-5656

August

9–10: Mesabi Range Rock Swap. Discover the area's geological finds on field trips for agates, fossils, jasper, and minerals. Swap or sell your treasures afterwards, if you like. Calumet. (218) 247-7215

MISSOURI

Missouri Division of Tourism
P.O.Box 1055
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
(314) 751-4133

March

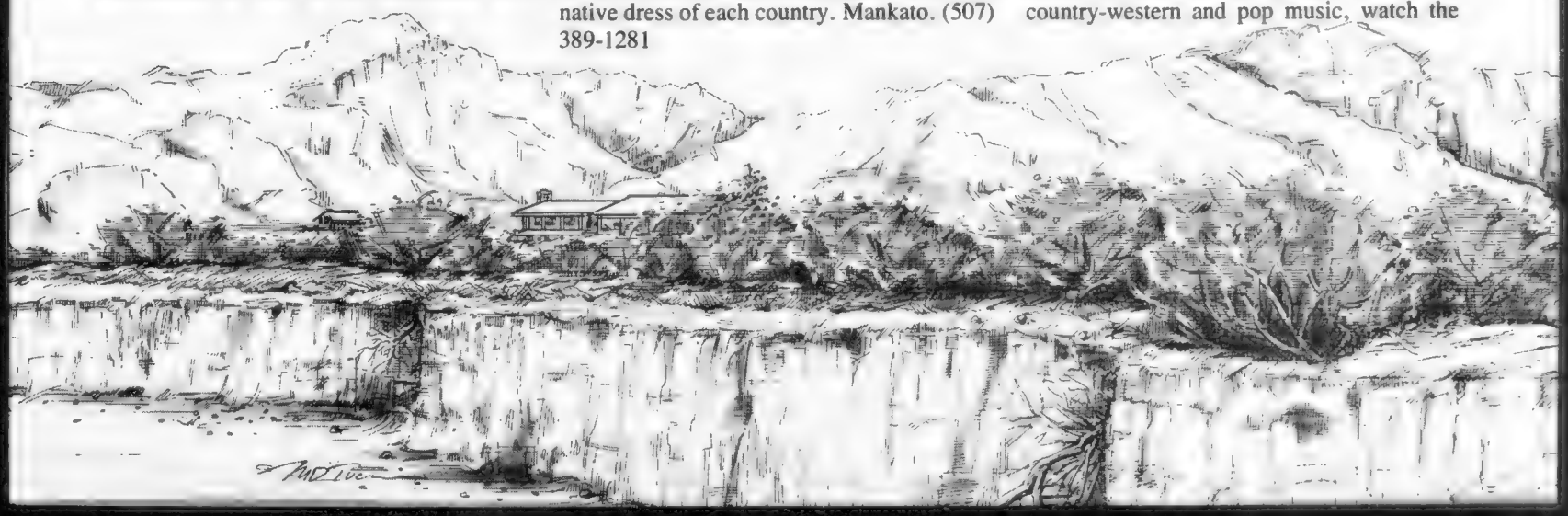
Mid-Mar.: Symphony Superpops. Talented trumpeter Doc Severinsen sets off the season finale. Kansas City. (816) 421-7500

May

2–5: Lake of the Ozarks Dogwood Festival. Amidst the lovely springtime flowering of dogwood blossoms, take in an antique car show, swap meet, carnival, thresher exhibit, and possibly an appearance by impressive Clydesdales. Camdentown. (314) 346-5946

June

20–21: Riverfest. Run around the only inland cape in the world on the riverfest run, listen to barbershop quartets and live country-western and pop music, watch the



waterskiing show on the Mississippi River, or just relax while munching on nachos and other tasty snacks. Cape Girardeau. (314) 335-3312

July

25–27: Family Bluegrass Music Weekend. Bluegrass fans can get their fix at this weekend-long extravaganza that helps keep this musical tradition alive. Sam A. Baker State Park, near Patterson. (314) 856-4411

August

15–17: Fête des Petites Côtes. This "Festival of Little Hills" takes place in the historic district and features old-time crafts demonstrations, a beer garden, bluegrass music, and square dancing. St. Charles. (314) 946-7776

30–Sep. 1: Pershing Balloon Derby. Hot-air balloons rise in the morning and evening, when the wind is calmest, to participate in races like the Hound 'n' Hare: one balloon, designated as the "hare," takes off and lands on a spot selected by the balloon master; the "hounds" (all the other balloons) must chase after the "hare" and try to hit the spot where it landed with a marker. Brookfield. (816) 258-7255

MONTANA

Travel Montana
Department of Commerce
1424 9th Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620
(800) 548-3390 or (406) 444-2654

March

13–15: Native American Art Show. Over sixty American Indian artists present works in various mediums. Free seminars range in subject from the history of American Indian art to successful marketing techniques. Great Falls. (406) 791-2212

April

26: River Derby. How fast does a river run? Find out when a large wooden ball almost three feet in diameter is sent down the Clark Fork River. Bets are placed on how long it will take to travel to a bridge downstream. Superior. (406) 822-4931

May

24–26: Bullhook Bottoms Black-Powder Shoot. Shootists have bang-up good times at these black-powder matches for men, women, and children. Participants camp in tepees at Fort Assiniboine and don trapper dress of the 1840s. Havre. (406) 265-7431

July

4–6: Daly Days. A turn-of-the-century celebration in memory of copper magnate Marcus Daly, founder of Hamilton. Activities include carriage rides, music in the park, a Gay 90s revue, historic walking tours, an art market, and more. Hamilton. (406) 363-1781

Mid-Jul.: Chief Joseph Trail Ride. A week-long ride on Appaloosas, along the trail originally traveled by Chief Joseph in his historic flight from the white man. Food, music, dancing, and speakers at camp every evening. Dillon. (208) 882-5578

NEBRASKA

Nebraska Division of Travel and Tourism
Department of Economic Development
P.O. Box 94666
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
(800) 228-4307

March

1: Choral Montage. The Die Meister Singers perform music of the twentieth century by various American composers. Omaha. (402) 453-3719

April

26–27: Arbor Day Arts Festival. Craftspeople gather in Nebraska City—home of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor Day. Wooden kitchen utensils, landscape paintings, handwoven baskets, and other tree- or horticultural-related wares are displayed in an apple orchard's old-fashioned storage house. Nebraska City. (402) 474-5655

June

13–15: Heritage Days. Whoop it up at a parade, free barbecue, craft fair, and carnival. McCook. (308) 345-3200

14–22: NEBRASKAland Days. There's something for everyone at this statewide celebration, including country and gospel music, Senior Citizens Olympics, wheelchair rodeo for handicapped children, Western shoot-outs, and a steak fry. North Platte. (308) 532-7939

July

4: Independence Day Celebration. "Keep the Torch Lit" is the theme of this no-holds-barred celebration, which begins with the Colonial tradition of "firing the anvils" and ends with a spectacular fireworks display. During the day, proud Americans enter an apple-pie-eating contest, and watch the grand parade. In honor of the Statue of Liberty's centennial, there will be a special salute to all immigrants and foreign exchange students residing in the state. Last year, thirty-eight states and twenty-nine countries signed the official guest book of this annual event. Seward. (402) 643-4189

NEVADA

Nevada Department of Tourism
Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710
(702) 885-3636

March

29: Intercollegiate Mining Competition. Teams from the U.S. and Canada try to best each other in five different mining events—bow (or Swede) sawing, hand steeling, hand mucking, track standing, and jackleg drilling. If there is a tie, the results from the previous evening's beer-chugging contest determine the winner. Reno. (702) 784-6961

May

23–26: Jim Butler Days. The town's founder, Jim Butler, supposedly discovered this area's wealth of silver ore when he picked up a hefty chunk of it to throw at his recalcitrant burro. In recollection of this historic fellow, the state mining championships are held here, along with an arts and crafts show, arm-wrestling and horseshoe-pitching contests, and a parade. Tonopah. (702) 482-3859

June

14–15: Kit Carson Rendezvous. Fringed buckskins are all the rage at this Old West event. Blasts from black-powder shoots echo across the encampment of a nearby wagon train, and Indians from various tribes perform ceremonial dances in an authentic Indian village setting. Train rides and horse-drawn rides offer a taste of the pioneer traveling experience (those buckboards weren't designed for comfort), and a street dance and music jamboree give you a chance to let your hair down. Nevada's amateur boxing championship is also held. Carson City. (702) 883-7442

15: Steve Owen Memorial Liar's Race. Inventive contestants set out in anything that will float in this crazy, makeshift-boat race. Memorable past entries include a papier-mache spaceship and a converted wheelchair. A canoe race follows. (702) 945-5253

July

4: Western States Hollerin' Contest. According to event founder Carl Hayden, hollering is a whole language in one unintelligible word. Long, drawn-out howdys and wahoos echoing across Shoshone Canyon will be judged on their volume, originality, and endurance. Near Jackpot. (800) 821-1103

26–Aug. 3: Laughlin River Days. The riverbanks will resound with hoots and whistles at the macho-man contest. Other opportunities to display one's talents include a keg-throwing contest and a chili cook-off. Laughlin. (702) 298-2214

NEW MEXICO

New Mexico Economic Development and Tourism Department
Bataan Memorial Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503
(800) 545-2040 or (505) 827-6230

March

Mid-Mar.: Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Show. View the beauties that nature hides in the earth, learn about mining and gold panning, and speak with geologists and mineralogists at this rock-hounder's delight. Albuquerque. (505) 884-9457

May

3–4: Ralph Edwards Fiesta & Rodeo. The host of the long-running "Truth or Consequences" show comes to town and hosts a shindig complete with visiting celebrities, old-time fiddlers, Western dancing, a parade, and a rodeo. Truth or Consequences. (505) 894-3365

23–25: Gold Rush Days. Chow down a fiery mouthful in the jalapeño-pepper-eating contest, then cool off in the beer chug-a-lug. A chili challenge, bluegrass festival, liars' contest, hog-calling contest, and Miss Ugly contest are only the beginning of all the fun to be had here. Red River. (800) 348-6444

June

5–7: Pioneer Days Celebration & Balloon Fiesta. Lots of Western good times with a barbecue, rodeo, balloon race, chili cook-off, and a Western dance with live music. Clovis. (505) 763-3435

16: 1862 Civil War Battle of Glorieta Pass Reenactment. Watch a dramatic staging of this key battle in the westernmost campaign of the Civil War between Confederate Texas and U.S. regular forces, aided by Mexican volunteers. Cannons, artillery, and mounted cavalry will be part of the fray. Pigeon's Ranch, near Santa Fe. (800) 528-5369

July

26–27: Fort Union Encampment. A historic nineteenth century camp comes to life with military drills and demonstrations. Authentically attired folk reenact roles of a saddle maker, blacksmith, laundress, carriage maker, and other occupations. Taste freshly made hardtack (tough on the teeth), or learn what was in vogue a century ago at a fashion show. Capulin. (505) 425-8025

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Dept. of Tourism
Liberty Memorial Bldg.
Capitol Grounds
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505
(800) 437-2077 or (701) 224-2525

June

13–Aug. 31: Medora Musical. An outdoor amphitheater in the North Dakota Badlands sets the stage for this nightly variety show. Family entertainment includes comedians, animal acts, and Western song and dance numbers performed by the Burning Hills Singers. Medora. (701) 623-4444

20–22: North Dakota State Championship Horse Show. Arabians, Appaloosas, and other fine breeds strut their stuff in this competition. Afterwards, equestrians and spectators dine on pitchfork fondue (steaks speared on pitchforks, fried in a large, black pot) and dance at the Horsemen's Stomp. Rugby. (701) 776-5846

July

12–13: Lake Sakakawea Walleye Derby. One hundred two-man teams fish for $13,000 in prize money. Last year's winning team hauled in eighty-three pounds of walleye. Fish fry for all on Saturday afternoon. New Town. (701) 627-3415

18–19: Riverboat Days. Folks celebrate in Grand Forks—the town founded by a stranded riverboat captain in the 1890s. Festivities include boat poker, where players draw their hand from card-filled buckets along the river, and a backseat driver contest, where blindfolded men and women maneuver lawn tractors through a course—according to their sighted spouses' directions. Grand Forks. (701) 746-0444

August

3: Champion's Ride Rodeo: World-class rodeo cowboys each brave the bucking broncs three times in a unique match ride. Sentinel Butte. (701) 872-3745

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma Tourism
Marketing Services Division
500 Will Rogers Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105
(405) 521-2406

March

29: Easter Pageant. Over fifty scenes from the life of Jesus will be portrayed in the Holy City—a spectacular natural amphitheater in the Wichita Mountains. Lawton. (405) 355-3541

April

26: World Championship Cow Chip Throwing Contest. Discs of frontier fuel are thrown bare-handed in this "Organic Olympics" event. Beaver. (405) 625-4726

May

Early: Nature Festival '86. Celebrate spring on a guided nature hike, taste acorn pancakes and other edible wild foods, learn how to identify wildflowers, hear American Indian legends told by a costumed storyteller, and jig to traditional Irish music at the Martin Park Nature Center. Oklahoma City. (405) 755-0676

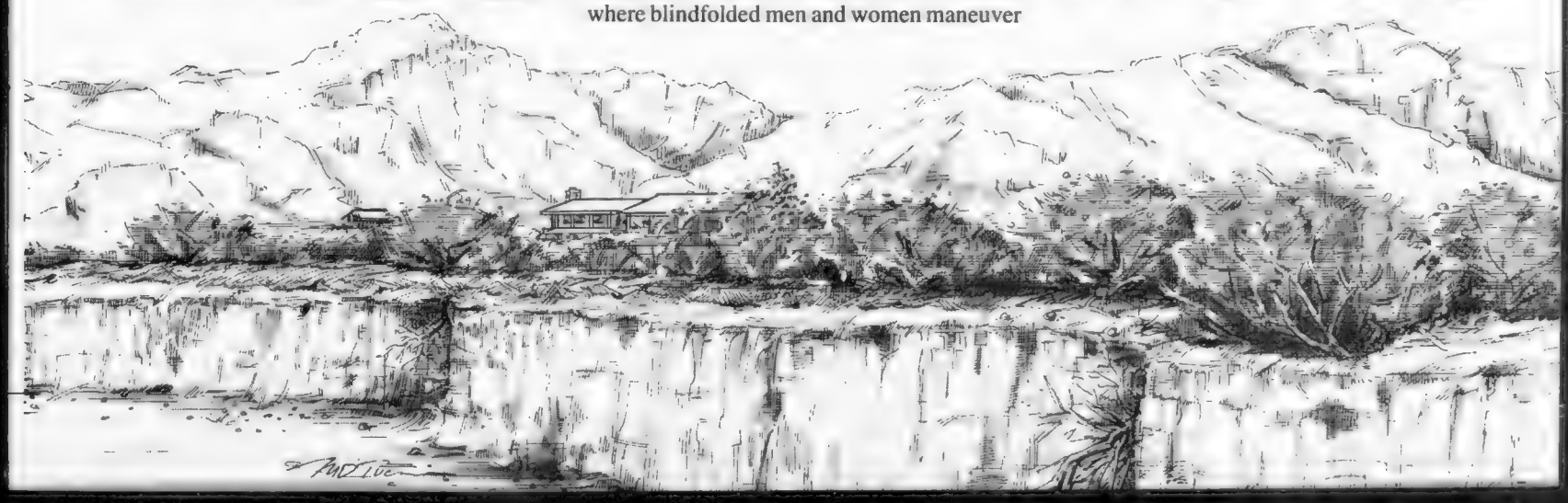
17: Oklahoma City Zoo Run. Runners may laugh with the hyenas or make a face at the monkeys in a 10K or a two-mile fun run winding through the zoo. Oklahoma City. (405) 424-3344

June

7: Sailing Regatta. Skippers and crews hope for wind in their sails as they maneuver their yachts across Grand Lake. Tulsa. (918) 747-8254

July

4: International Brick and Rolling Pin Contest. A twelve-member team in Stroud gives it their all in hurling awkward objects through



the air. Distances are compared by telephone with the results of similar competitions held in three other cities named Stroud—in Canada, England, and Australia. Men in Oklahoma throw five-pound bricks manufactured in their hometown, while women fling two-pound rolling pins imported from their sister city "down under." Stroud. (918) 968-3321

OREGON

Economic Development Department
Tourism Division
595 Cottage Street, N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
(800) 547-7842 or (800) 233-3306

March

2: Handmade Musical Instrument Show. Discover the lovely shapes and sounds that can be drawn from Oregon wood. Painstakingly crafted violins, violas, cellos, lutes, guitars, flutes, recorders, and Baroque wind instruments are shown and played by their creators. Portland. (503) 239-4430

April

12: Pear Blossom Festival. All the ingredients for a fun time: a parade with floats and marching bands, 10K run, and street fair, plus the enchanting sight of blossoming pear trees. Medford. (503) 773-7371

June

3–8: Thunderegg Days. Rock fans congregate to hunt for thundereggs—round, rough geodes with an agate interior common to the area. Fill your eyes at displays of rocks and jewelry and your stomach at evening barbecues, an ice cream social, and a Mexican feed. Nyssa. (503) 372-3535

14: Sand-Castle Contest. Fantastic castles and other sand sculptures rise up on the beach, only to be swept away by the next high tide. Cannon Beach. (503) 436-2623

July

3–5: Molalla Buckeroo. Fancy footwork burns up the floor at the firemen's dance, held in conjunction with two days of action-packed rodeo and a parade. Molalla. (503) 829-2301

12: Graffiti Night. Grease back that hair, pull on your letterman's jacket, and get set to cruise the streets. Everyone dresses in the style that accords with the vintage of his car (including the early sixties) and parades bumper to bumper through the streets of downtown. A show and shine during the day lets people get an up-close look at these automotive classics. Roseburg. (503) 672-2648

August

11–14: State Fair Wine Competition. Experts sample the delicate bouquet of Oregon wines and present trophies to the winners. Salem. (503) 378-3247

SOUTH DAKOTA

South Dakota Division of Tourism
Box 1000
Pierre, South Dakota 57501
(800) 843-1930 or (800) 952-2217

April

3–5: Schmeckfest—German for "festival of tasting." This affair boasts meals of tasty German dishes, exhibits of folk arts and local artwork, and performances of N. Richard Nash's musical *110° in the Shade*. Freeman. (605) 925-4237

19: South Dakota Symphony. Singer Cleo Laine and her accompanist John Dankworth perform classical, pop, and jazz numbers. Sioux Falls. (605) 336-1620

May

3–4: Walleye Fishing Derby. Teams of two cast their lines and try to reel in the biggest catch. Chamberlain. (605) 734-5782

July

11–13: Boss Cowman Days. Find out who really is boss, the man or the horse, at the rodeo, and partake of summer bounty at the watermelon feed. Hot-air balloon rides may be available. Lemmon. (605) 374-5716

26–27: Reva Turtle Races. Get along, little . . . turtles? Softball tournaments are held in addition to the breakneck turtle competition. Reva. (605) 375-3412

August

2–3: Burke Threshing Bee. Old-time machines are humming as people use threshers to bundle hay the old-fashioned way. Antique farm equipment is on view, and a flea market offers any and every hard-to-find item you've been looking for. Games, a dance, and a talent show, too. Burke. (605) 775-2913

22–24: Pioneer Village Jamboree. Head back in time and find out what the pioneer experience was all about. Old-time music, farm machinery, costumes, and crafts. Madison. (605) 256-4552

TEXAS

Texas Travel & Information Division
State Department of Highways
11th and Brazos Streets
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 475-8044

March

16: "Those Magnificent Flying Machines." Kite-making demonstrations, a Frisbee toss, and experiments with helium balloons help teach children the principles of aerodynamics. This free program is part of the exhibit "Reach for the Sky: Aviation in Texas," on display at the Institute of Texan Cultures through June 8. San Antonio. (512) 226-7651

April

11–12: Lambblast. A dance on Friday night kicks off this cook-off of lamb legs, shoulders, and chops. Cooking teams decorate their sites and entertain spectators with songs and skits around the barbecue pits. Lamb kabobs for everyone. San Angelo. (915) 655-3439

19: Blue Bell Fun Run. Blooming bluebonnets line this 10K course. Runners of all ages cool off after the race with free ice cream. Brenham. (409) 836-3695

May

9–11: Boomtown Days. Relive Odessa's oil-boom days on streets of 1930s-style storefronts. In the Oilfield Olympics, four-man, oil-well crews compete in timed events. Odessa. (915) 332-8189

July

17–19: Water Carnival. An olympic-sized swimming pool sets a wet stage for this fiftieth annual event. A cast of 100 performers entertains onlookers with water ballet and dance numbers in and around the water. Fort Stockton. (915) 336-2167

UTAH

Utah Travel Council
Council Hall/Capitol Hill
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 533-5681

March

29–30: Jeep Safari and Hill Climb. Let's go four-wheelin'! Hundreds of four-wheel-drive

vehicles from all over the country set out in this safari, which offers a choice of fifteen scenic trails—each rated in difficulty. Few competitors make it over the top in the challenging hill climb. Moab. (801) 259-7014

May

10–Oct. 13: Old Train Ride On the Heber Creeper. Since 1899, the Creeper has been making its slow runs down Provo Canyon. Scenic tours on the steam-powered train wind through the farming country of Heber Valley, along the shores of Deer Creek and the Provo River. Heber. (801) 654-3229

23–24: Bicentennial U-95 Highway Tour. Travelers in their own cars or in guided vans begin this two-day highway excursion at the Fry Canyon Indian ruins, site of an Anasazi pictograph. Sightseers stay overnight in Blanding, and are entertained by an Indian cultural program, where they can join in the bear dance. Blanding. (801) 678-2244

July

25–Aug. 2: Festival of the American West. Pioneer soap-making and lace-making demonstrations, a historical pageant, square dances, a Dutch oven cook-off, Indian craft exhibits, and covered wagons send visitors back to the days of the Old West. Logan. (801) 750-1143

August

2: Icelandic Day. People of Icelandic descent celebrate their heritage in Spanish Fork, the largest Icelandic settlement in the U.S. Festivities include a 5K Viking Run, a family picnic, and a traditional sing-along. Spanish Fork. (801) 798-6264

29–Sep. 1: Golden Onion Days. Folks gather at City Park for an onion stew and casserole cook-off, a carnival, horse racing, and model airplane competitions—where elaborate model bombers drop minibombs on targets. Payson. (801) 465-9147

WASHINGTON

Washington Dept. of Commerce and
Economic Development/Tourism Division
101 General Administration
Olympia, Washington 98504
(800) 541-9274 or (800) 562-4570

April

5–6, 12–13: Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. Tiptoe, run, bicycle, or take a bus tour through acres and acres of fresh spring tulips. A street and food fair help usher in the spring. Mt. Vernon. (206) 336-9555

24–May 4: Washington State Apple Blossom Festival. You who are athletic and adventurous can try the ridge to river relay, combining skiing, biking, running, and canoeing, or the guided white-water river tours. Two theatrical productions, a spring music festival, quilt show, handball tournament, carnival, and gem and mineral show offer something for everyone. Wenatchee. (509) 662-3616

May

3: Morris Dancing. On the opening day of boating season, colorful groups of Morris dancers clad in ribbons and bells gather on Mont Lake Cut to perform old English folk dances like "Winster Processional," "Rose," and "Country Gardens" to the strains of a fiddle or an accordion. Seattle. (206) 447-4240

17: Lilac Festival/Armed Forces Torchlight Parade. "A Tribute to Women" is this year's parade theme; a top-ranking Navy woman will be the grand marshal of this lovely evening display of glowing floats. Zany bed races, a carnival, a hot-air balloon rally, and, of course, budding lilacs, add color to the scene. Spokane. (509) 624-1393

June

28–29: Sage & Sun Festival. Summertime fun with a parade, arts and crafts fair, and food circus. Past entertainments have included donkey baseball and tractor pulls. Ephrata. (509) 754-4656

July

25–27: Oregon Trail Days. Along the route of the original Oregon Trail, buckskinners come together for a rousing rendezvous, equipped with tipis, black-powder shoots, a clam feed, old-time style show, and 5K and 10K races. Tenino. (206) 264-5075

WYOMING

Wyoming Travel Commission
I-25 at College Drive
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0660
(800) 443-2784 or (307) 777-7777

March

1–2: Wyoming State Cross Country Ski Championship. Watch male and female racers push on through the powder. Togwotee. (307) 733-5760

May

24–26: Old West Days. Members of the Idaho Blackfoot tribe head south to perform tribal dances when Jackson harks back to its days of yore. Knife throwing, hatchet throwing, soap making, and many more pioneer activities, including yarn spinning around the campfire. Jackson. (307) 733-3316

June

7: Country Showdown. Fingers fly across fiddles, banjos, and guitars at this country music contest. Winners will go on to regional and, for the really talented, national competitions. Evanston. (307) 789-9101

July

13–30: North American Wildlife Art Show. Get close up to bears, wolves, eagles, and owls at this display and sale of original works of wildlife art. Cheyenne. (307) 637-6364

19: Annual Community Trout Fry & Crafts Fair. There's more than fish at this trout fry. A competition of Ice Age primitive spear-throwing attracts professional and amateur archeologists from across the country, who also camp out and give demonstrations of flint knapping. The Wyoming Chautauqua, a traveling tent-show troupe whose performances recreate historical personages, may also appear. Saratoga (307) 326-8855

August

2–3: Wright Days. This town commemorates its recent founding in 1976 with softball and mud-volleyball tournaments, a parade, carnival, arts and crafts fair, and street dances for adults and teenagers. Wright. (307) 464-0049

7–10: Wind River Rendezvous. Three-person families compete in the primitive-skills contest to see which team can be the fastest to erect a tipi, start a fire with flint and steel, and boil water and cook an egg. For the mountain men run, entrants must run in buckskins, set a trap, shoot, and throw a tomahawk and knife. Bluegrass music and a buffalo barbecue, too. Dubois. (307) 455-2556

American West

TRAVEL PLANNER

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25. *__FREDERICKSBURG__—An Enduring Heritage. Historic district, three museums, state parks, quaint shops. Scenic Texas Hill Country. Over 30 celebrations. German bakeries, beer gardens, motels, camping, bed-and-breakfasts. Join 1986 celebrations: Fredericksburg's 140th and Texas's 150th.
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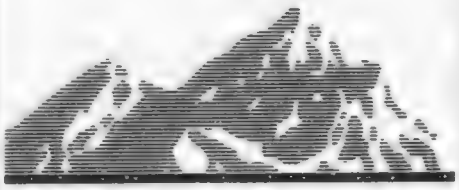

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Western Books in Brief

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The Great Towns of the West: A Guide to Their Special Pleasures *by David Vokac (West Press, San Diego, 1985; 464 pp., illus., paper $14.95).*
Vokac has ferreted out fifty of the West's most picturesque towns, tucked in between towering mountain peaks or ranged along the shores of the Pacific. Descriptions of each of these great get-away-from-it-all towns from Port Townsend, Washington, to Sedona, Arizona, include a concise, well-written history, photograph, and list of attractions and diversions, restaurants, hotels, and campgrounds with telephone numbers and addresses. An invaluable resource for finding Western vacation spots that combine the best in size, location, and natural and urban features, Vokac's organized guide also rates each attraction mentioned and provides helpful price lists.

That Back Road In: Selected Poems 1972–1983 *by John Brandi (Wingbow Press, Berkeley, 1985; 164 pp., illus., paper $7.95).*
Written about New Mexico and the Four Corners area of the Southwest, Brandi's taut yet eloquent poems evoke the sere landscape. Images of ancient petroglyphs, wind-carved rocks, and Indian rites form paths that lead back to a simpler concept of life, unconstrained by time limits. Brandi's poems show that he observes his surroundings as he travels, discovering significant details that many of us miss as we rush by in our hurry to get from here to there, not noticing anything in between.

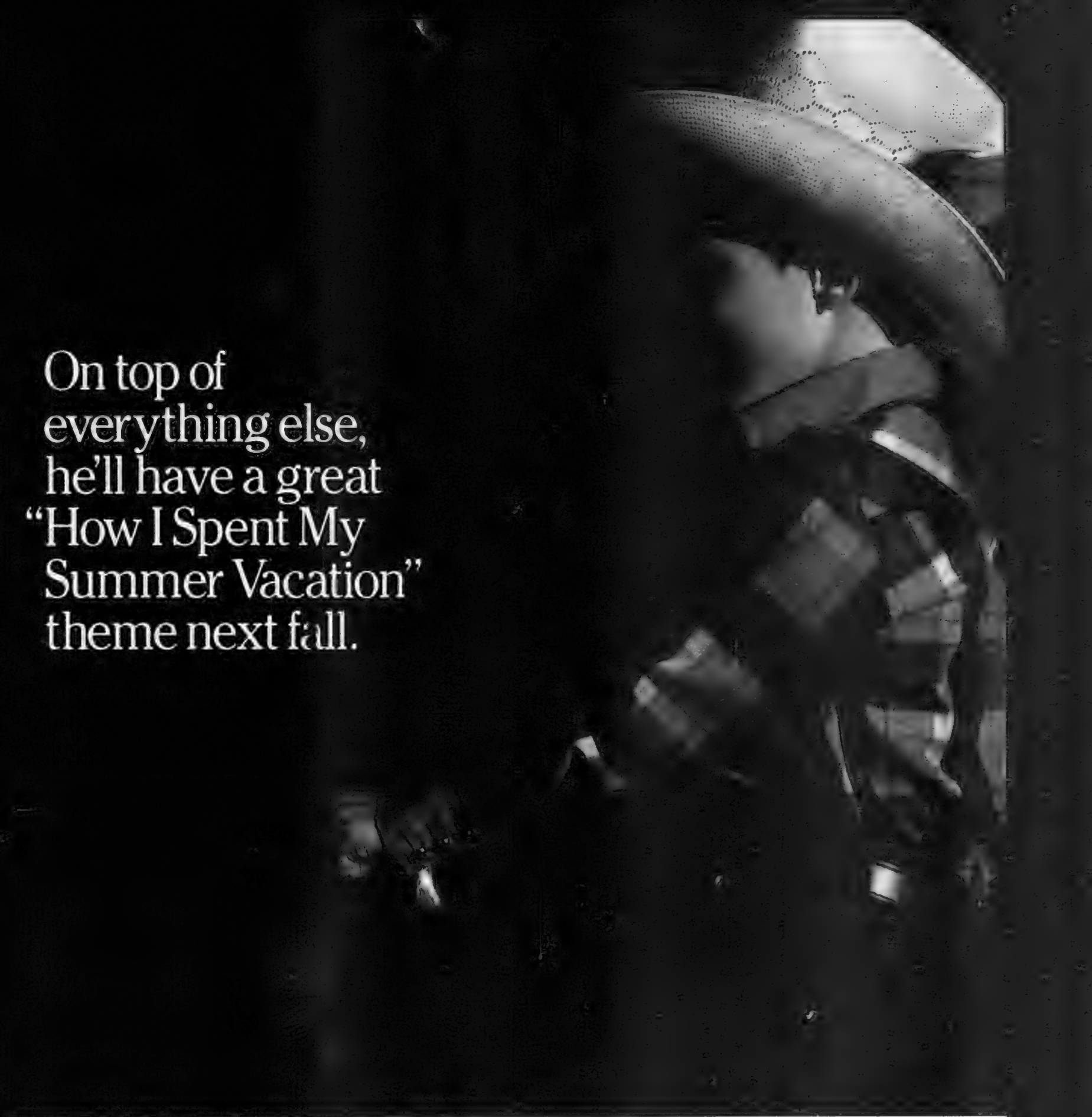
Yosemite National Park: Nature's Masterpiece in Stone, *photog. by Pat O'Hara, text by David Robertson;* **Grand Teton National Park: Where Lightning Walks** *and* **Mount Rainier National Park: Realm of the Sleeping Giant,** *photog. by Pat O'Hara, text by Tim McNulty (Woodlands Press, Del Mar, California, 1985. Each vol.: 72 pp., illus., cloth $30.00, paper $16.95).*
O'Hara's camera captures in brilliant color the stunning vistas and delicate beauty of three of our nation's most spectacular parks. Natural histories of each of these magnificently portrayed areas include descriptions of flora and fauna as well as notes on the geologic processes that formed the land. Each of these oversized books, through the sensitive text and photos, inspires a reverence for our wilderness regions and instills a desire to preserve them.

Brett: From Bloomsbury to New Mexico: A Biography *by Sean Hignett (Franklin Watts, New York, 1985; 304 pp., illus., index, notes, biblio., $22.95).*
The transplanted Britisher Dorothy Brett became one of Taos's most celebrated resident artists. Excerpts from her letters reveal Brett's on-again, off-again friendships with such New Mexico literati as D. H. Lawrence, Mabel Dodge Luhan, and Frieda Lawrence and offer fascinating glimpses of their personalities. Deeply interested in Pueblo Indian culture, Brett painted a series of *Ceremonials* depicting sacred Indian rites. Hignett draws a sympathetic portrait of a woman striving to achieve independence and self-expression.

River Runners of the Grand Canyon *by David Lavender (University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 1985; 147 pp., illus., index, biblio., $27.50).*
The challenge posed by the Colorado River has called to all of the daring river runners featured in Lavender's gripping book. Lavender skillfully combines historical fact with breathtaking firsthand tales of braving the Colorado's many rapids. From John Wesley Powell to the thousands who today pit their strength against the river's power, people have rafted, rowed, and occasionally swum in an effort to overcome the turbulent waters. Photographs of some of the early river-explorers show the many types of transportation employed.

The Hover Collection of Karuk Baskets, *text by Virginia M. Fields (Clarke Memorial Museum, Eureka, California, 1985; 112 pp., illus., biblio., paper $18.00).*
Black-and-white photos of these beautiful, intricately woven baskets display the artistry of the Karuk Indians of northwestern California. Historical photos showing the many uses of their woven creations accompany a summary of the history and culture of the Karuk, along with a description of materials used and methods of weaving. This fine collection also holds wonderfully patterned hats, trays, and mats, as well as jewelry made from shells used for barter or special ceremonies.

Yellowstone: A Wilderness Besieged *by Richard Bartlett (University of Arizona*



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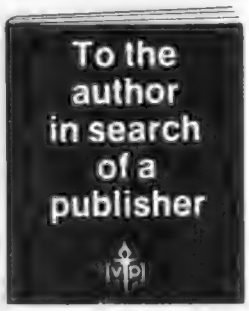

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Press, Tucson, 1985; 451 pp., illus., index, biblio., notes, $24.95).

Bartlett's fascinating account tells the history of Yellowstone through the people who shaped it. Powerful politicians, visitors, administrators, and concessionaires participated in the debate over preservation of the park's unspoiled beauty and the desire to tap Yellowstone's bountiful resources, including its tourist trade. Well-researched, the book includes captivating stories about stagecoach tours, idiosyncratic superintendents, poacher problems, and much more in this saga of a park's survival.

Sharp Rifles and Spanish Mules: The San Antonio–El Paso Mail, 1851–1881 *by Wayne R. Austerman (Texas A&M University Press, College Station, 1985; 367 pp., illus., maps, index, biblio., appendix, $29.50).*

Stagecoach drivers attempting the hazardous journey from San Antonio to El Paso were beset by Indians and harsh weather in winter and summer. Austerman's fact-packed story relates the excitement and the danger that mail carriers experienced while passing through this inhospitable land. Included are historical photographs and lively depictions of the owners of the stage line, influential Texans, and the courageous, sharp-shooting drivers who delivered the mail.

A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians, *revised, text and illus. by Robert C. Stebbins (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1985; 350 pp., illus., maps, glossary, index, $17.95).*

A gem of an addition to the Peterson Field Guide series, Stebbins's revised edition contains marvelously illustrated color and black-and-white drawings of the colorful snakes, lizards, turtles, and frogs that inhabit the West. Descriptions of the physical characteristics, breeding habits, and range of each of these elusive creatures make for quick identification in the wild. Species distribution maps and meticulous drawings of eggs, scales, and larvae satisfy the curiosity and provide more in-depth knowledge than most field guides offer.

Rocky Mountain National Park Hiking Trails—Including Indian Peaks, *revised, by Kent and Donna Dannen (East Woods Press, Charlotte, North Carolina, 1985; 288 pp., illus., maps, index, paper $8.95).*

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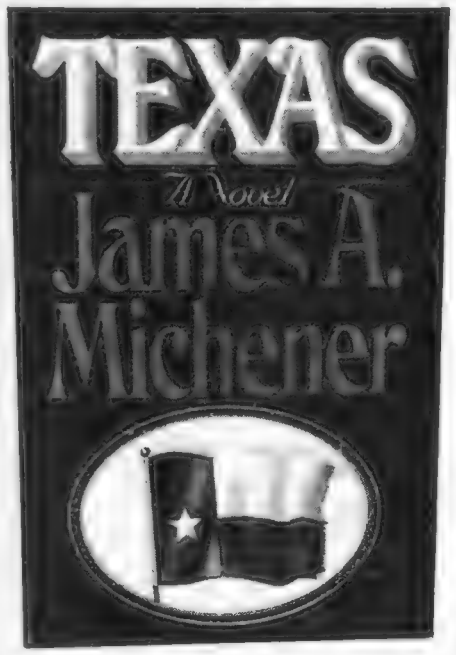

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information chart for each trail, tips on weather conditions and proper gear, and the Dannens' enthusiasm for the area's many beauties render this a readable as well as helpful guide. Five short trails of less than two miles are included along with the longer, more strenuous hikes to help make the park accessible to all.

Destination: Denver City: The South Platte Trail *by Doris Monahan (Ohio University Press, Athens, 1985; 303 pp., illus., maps, index, biblio., notes, cloth $29.95, paper $14.95).*

Winding through eastern Colorado from Nebraska to Denver, the South Platte Trail in the mid-nineteenth century was treacherous going, as the stories in this interesting book show. Overland stagecoach drivers were often the target of Cheyenne and Sioux arrows. The conflicts that arose from the influx of trappers and settlers into Indian territory during the 1860s are reenacted as Monahan portrays the major Indian and Caucasian protagonists in the battle for what is now eastern Colorado.

The Bassett Women *by Grace McClure (Ohio University Press, Athens, 1985; 245 pp., illus., appendix, notes, biblio., cloth $25.00, paper $10.95).*

Independent and strong minded, the Bassett women became famous for their willful ways in Brown's Park, Colorado, during the late nineteenth century. McClure warmly relates the entertaining adventures of cowgirl Elizabeth Bassett and her daughters Josie and "Queen" Ann, queen of the cattle rustlers. The story of these unruly women is a microcosm of western Colorado history, providing insight into the battle for land between local ranchers and overbearing cattle barons.

Custer in Photographs *by D. Mark Katz (Yo-Mark Production Co., Inc., Gettysburg, Penn., 1985; 160 pp., illus., $150.00).*

Strong-featured General George A. Custer was the most photographed man of his time. That's what Civil War buff Mark Katz claims in this comprehensive collection, which presents the fruits of a three-year search for photographs of the "Boy General." Arranged here in chronological order are all the known photographs of Custer—155 total—including forty-seven previously unpublished prints. The portraits document the military leader's brief but ambitious adult life, from age seventeen to thirty-six. Modern duotone reproduction processes have rendered fine quality copies of the original photographs, which are collectively valued at

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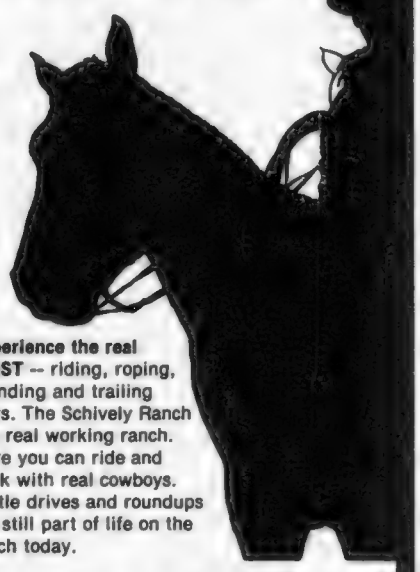

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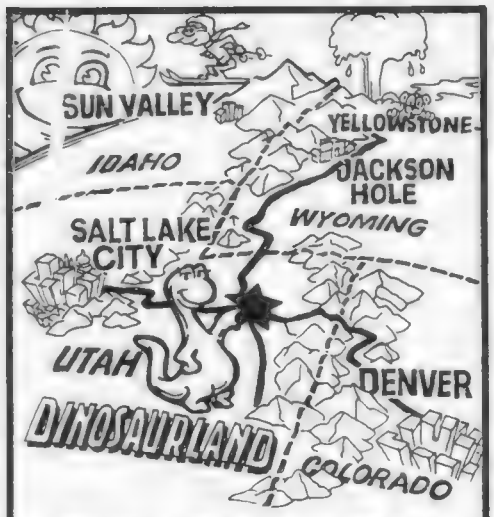

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The life of a genuine American cowboy was not quite so exciting or glamorous as Gary Cooper and John Wayne characters indicate. In his intriguing book, Weston contrasts struggles against weather and cattle bosses with the myth fostered by Western romances and films—a gallant, all-American hero riding the range. Magazine covers and movie stills illustrate the media's unrealistic portrayal of the often poorly fed, overworked cowpuncher. Stories about the role of minority cowboys, women ranchers, and cowgirls add an aspect that is overlooked in many depictions of the Old West.

The Solace of Open Spaces *by Gretel Ehrlich (Viking, New York, 1985; 141 pp., $14.95).*
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Ten Years in Nevada or, Life on the Pacific Coast *by Mary McNair Mathews (University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1985; 343 pp., cloth $22.95, paper $7.50).*
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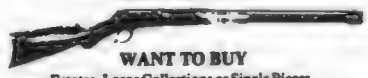

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A: After he was seriously mauled by a grizzly, Smith asked Clyman to sew on a damaged ear, which the bear had almost torn from Smith's head. The surgery was successful.

Q: What favorite delicacy did mountain men refer to as "trapper's butter"?

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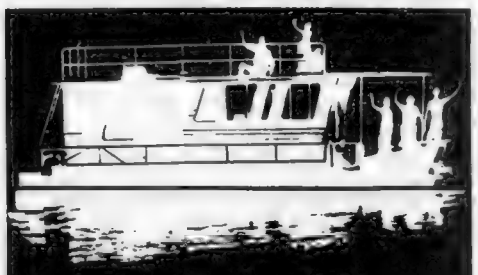

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PHOTO BY KATHY FLETCHER

The Joss House: A "Temple Amongst the Forest Beneath the Clouds"

"May you find your fortune quickly and return home soon" is the blessing Chinese gold miners inscribed on the wall of their Taoist temple in Weaverville, California, in 1874. The Joss House, as it is known today, is the oldest Chinese temple still in use in the state.

Almost half of the 2,500 prospectors in the Weaverville mining camp during the gold rush days were Chinese who had traveled far from their home in southeast China seeking quick riches in the American West. They named their temple "Wom-Lim Miao," meaning "the temple amongst the forest beneath the clouds." It was built of wood and painted red—a lucky color for the Taoists. To simulate the traditional tiled temples in China, rectangular blue "tiles" were painted over the red background. The Chinese who first worshipped there made the clay idols that still stand in the temple—the god of medicine, the god of war, and other deities.

Due largely to the rallying efforts of Moon Lee, a grandson of one of the temple's founders, the temple was declared a state historical park in 1956. Moon Lee died last November at the age of eighty-two, at peace knowing that the beauty and history of the temple would be maintained and that future generations would be free to worship there. Today about 100 worshippers come to pray to the gods each year.

Across the stream that runs near the temple is a ranger's station where visitors can learn more about the history of the Chinese in the area. Among the artifacts on display are the spear-like weapons from two fights that the Chinese in California waged amongst themselves.

The Joss House is open every day, 10:00–5:00, year-round (except holidays). Guided tours are offered every hour in the winter and every half-hour in the summer. Rangers explain the decor of the temple, such as the double doors and inside mirrors that are supposed to divert evil spirits, who are said to travel only in straight lines and are so ugly that they're afraid to see their faces.

Weaverville is in northern California, about 100 miles east of Eureka, on state route 299.

Elizabeth Swain of La Mesa, California, sent us this interesting bit of Western Lore of Eastern origin.

AMERICAN WEST offers twenty-five dollars to any reader whose suggestion is accepted for publication in Western Lore. We seek information (with relevant pictures, if possible) about unusual artifacts, unusual and little-known happenings, unusual and little-known people, as well as little-known facts about well-known people—all in Western history. What do you have? Space is limited; so, we have to be selective. We'll take good care of your pictures and return them promptly. Be sure to pack pictures carefully and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their return. Send submissions to AMERICAN WEST, Western Lore, 3033 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719.

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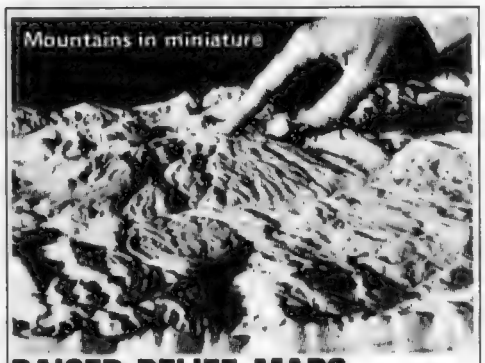

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Western Snapshots Today

Charming as this cheery inn may be, don't be fooled by its inviting facade. The only guests that stay at the Dewey Palace Hotel these days are the painted figures forever reposing on the lawn or standing on one of the pristine white balconies. Calling to mind its historical prototype, this ninety-by-seventeen-foot outdoor mural graces a wall of the Salvation Army building at the Exchange Club Park in Nampa, Idaho.

The real Dewey Palace Hotel was completed in 1903, costing its wealthy owner, railroad and mining magnate W. H. Dewey, an extravagant $200,000. The grand red edifice was said to have "loomed forth on a sage brush flat like a castle on a barren waste."

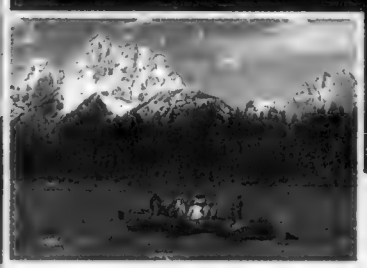
Dewey died soon after the hotel was completed, but his son, E. H. Dewey, carried out his father's plans. The hotel became a center of social activity, and during its sixty years of operation it provided accommodations for such prestigious guests as Governor and United States Senator William E. Borah, J. M. Studebaker, Annie Oakley, Gene Autry, and the Sons of the Pioneers. A harvest festival and rodeo first held at the hotel in the early days continues today as the Snake River Stampede. The Dewey Palace Hotel remained a Nampa landmark until 1963, when materials and furnishings were auctioned, and the building was demolished.

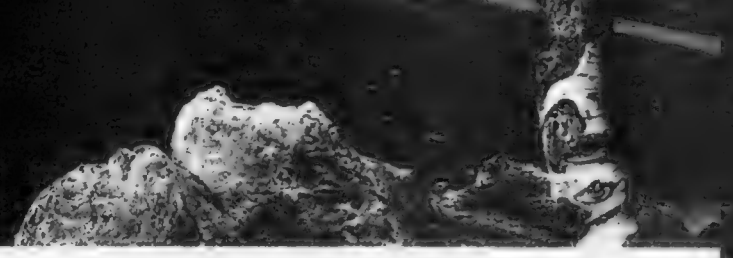
Based on information gathered from the Nampa Public Library, the Boise Historical Library, and the book *My Home Town* by the late Annie Laurie Bird (a longtime resident of Nampa), plans for the mural were completed in the early summer of 1984, and a 1:16 scale model was built. Local artists Olivia Vincent, Mary Van De Bogant, Sue Wilheim, and Eva Johnston were chosen by the Nampa City Arts Director to work on the $4,500 project, funded by the Nampa downtown redevelopment organization.

Painting began in early September of 1984. During the cold weather, plastic tarp covered the scaffolding; a heater under the tarp kept the paint above 50°. The memorial mural was finished two months later, in plenty of time for the city's 100th birthday celebration, which began in November of 1985 and will conclude this September. In keeping with a 1920s theme, cobblestone walkways and old-fashioned street lamps line the downtown street in front of the mural.

Bob Cook of Nampa, Idaho, sent us this intriguing Western snapshot. The photo was taken with a Nikon 35mm F3, a 28mm Nikor lens, and Ektachrome 64 color slide film.

AMERICAN WEST offers twenty-five dollars to any photographer, amateur or professional, whose Western Snapshot Today is selected for publication on this page. Pictures portraying today's West —the land and its people—in black-and-white or color, will be accepted for consideration. Please specify the type of camera, lens, film, paper, and techniques as well as light conditions used to obtain your photograph. Prints will be handled with care and returned promptly after use. Be sure to pack the snapshots carefully and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send submissions to AMERICAN WEST, Western Snapshots Today, 3033 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719.





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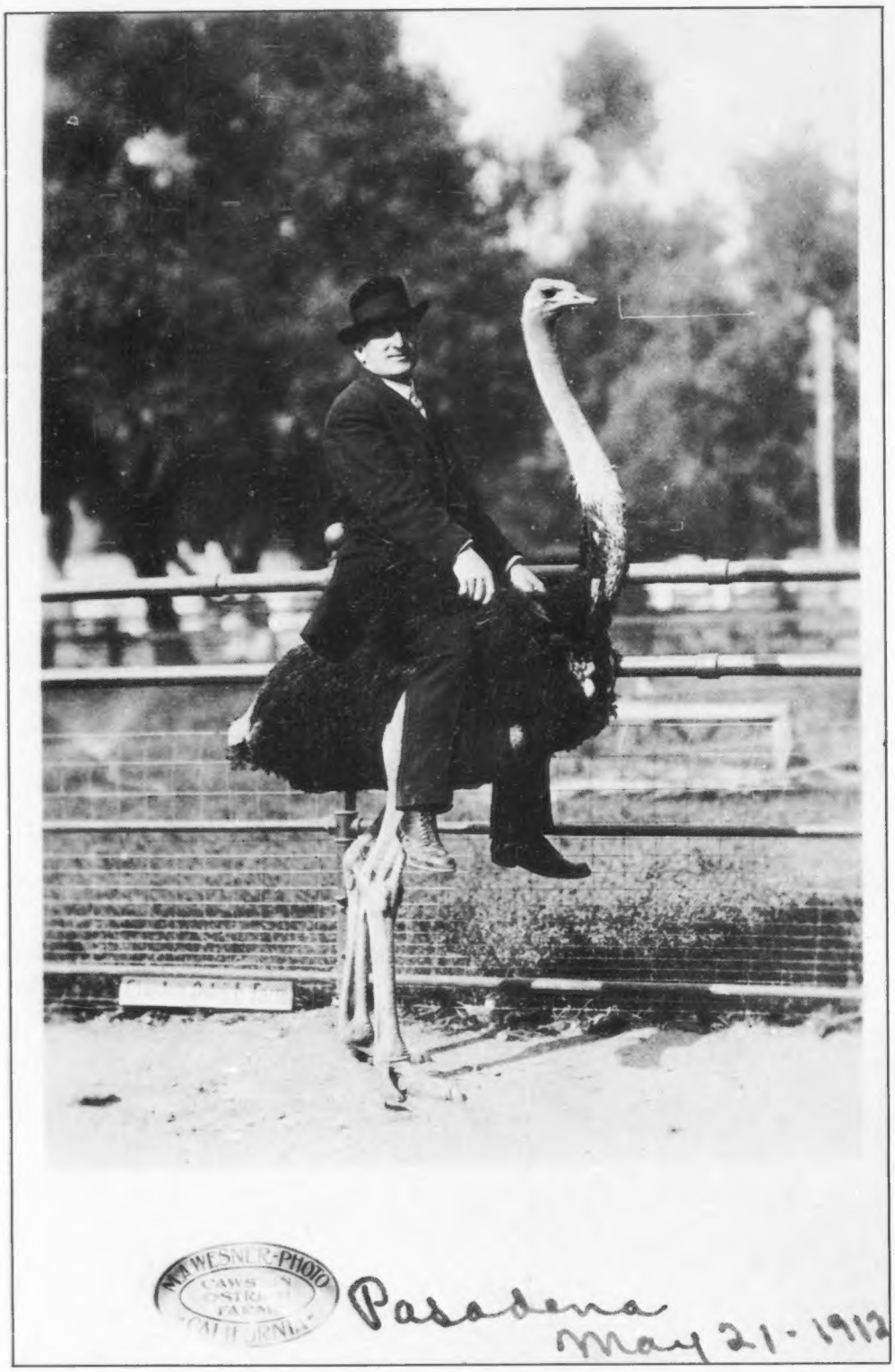
Western Snapshots Yesterday



It's a far cry from Trigger, but this stately ostrich appears to suit debonair Californian Frederic Kaiser, who confidently straddles his winged, though flightless, mount. Kaiser visited the Cawston Ostrich Farm in South Pasadena, California, with his family in 1912 while on a trip from San Francisco to Tijuana, Mexico.

A San Francisco native and grocer, Kaiser was the eldest son of German immigrants who came to the City by the Bay in the late 1860s. Accompanying him on his southward jaunt were his wife, Lucy Call Kaiser, and their two children, six-year-old Viva and four-year-old George. Mrs. Kaiser's two sisters, Mercedes and Emma Call, completed the party. The Kaiser's car, a 1910 Maxwell, was equipped with a top, but offered little other protection from the elements. Since the vehicle wasn't designed to carry six people, one of the children rode on an accommodating lap. The trip was made in early May, after the winter rains, when the weather was clement and the unpaved roads passable.

In Ventura, Lucy Kaiser mailed a postcard depicting a Santa Barbara scene. "Pretty strenuous times," she wrote. "Have passed through much mountainous country." The journey from San Luis Obispo to Santa Barbara may have been the most difficult segment of their trip.

The Kaisers covered the distance between San Francisco and Los Angeles in four days, reaching San Diego on their fifth day of traveling. After touring Tijuana, Mexico, they headed north toward home, stopping off at the Cawston Ostrich Farm on May 21.

Only Kaiser climbed aboard the unlikely steed. The ladies may have been inhibited by their attire, and the children were probably too young to be allowed to clamber up on such a tall bird. The photograph of the dapperly clad Kaiser and his black-and-white mount was made into a postcard, which the family saved as a memento of their adventure.

The Kaisers changed their name to Kaye in 1918, due to discrimination problems. Frederic Kaiser's grandson, Frederick Kaye Tomlin, of San Mateo, California, sent us this amusing photo of his grandfather and feathered friend.

AMERICAN WEST offers twenty-five dollars to any reader whose Western Snapshot Yesterday is accepted for publication on this page. We seek old photographs that tell stories of bygone times. Especially welcome are pictures depicting some forgotten aspect of Western life, serious or amusing. Space is limited; so, we have to be selective. We'll take good care of your pictures and return them promptly. Be sure to pack the snapshots carefully and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send submissions to AMERICAN WEST, Western Snapshots Yesterday, 3033 N. Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719.

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